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February 7, 2023

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 0251 — State Government - Commission on
LGBTQIA+ Affairs - Alterations**

The Board of Directors of Annapolis Pride enthusiastically supports Senate Bill 0251, which will ensure that the commission accurately and respectfully reflects the diversity of the LGBTQIA+ community. It is crucial to increase the number of commission members to ensure that individuals from a variety of backgrounds and lived-experiences are represented. The LGBTQIA+ community is not a monolith, and the expansion ensures voices of more people of color, transgender individuals, and individuals of varying abilities are heard.

Additionally, this bill would provide the commission with greater stability and continuity to carry out its important work. This would not only ensure that the commission is able to effectively work towards achieving its goals, but also ensure that the experiences and voices of the LGBTQIA+ community are better represented and heard. It is crucial that the LGBTQIA+ community is represented in decision-making and policy-making processes for the state.

For these reasons, Annapolis Pride respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 0251

Respectfully submitted,

Jaden Farris
Board Member
Annapolis Pride