



January 31, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

We are writing in **SUPPORT** of [SB0084](#) - *Inclusive Public Restrooms*.

This bill would require that single-occupancy public restrooms be marked with inclusive signage, which would help to provide a safe and accessible public restroom experience throughout Maryland. We believe in creating welcoming and affirming spaces for everyone, including in public accommodations for transgender and gender-expansive individuals.

Sex-segregated bathrooms can be dangerous places for people who identify outside of traditional gender roles — including those who do not even identify as LGBTQ+. According to a study done by the *National Center for Transgender Equality*, more than [60% of transgender individuals avoid the use of public restrooms](#) out of fear of harassment and ridicule. Something so simple as using a public restroom can be the source of immense anxiety and fear for an already vulnerable and marginalized community.

SB0084, which *only* deals with *single-occupancy* restrooms, not only benefits transgender/ gender-expansive people, but also single-parents, young children, families, elderly, and those with disabilities. Occupying public spaces is something which most of us take for granted; using public restrooms comfortably and safely is something *all* Marylanders deserve.

We urge a **Favorable Report for SB0084**.

Thank-you,

*David Fishback / Mark Eckstein*

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Advocacy Co-Chairs, Maryland

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