



Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill 761 - Correctional Facilities - Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Inmates
Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act

March 15, 2023

SUPPORT

Maryland's Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-MD) which represents professional Social Workers across the State of Maryland supports SB 761 Correctional Facilities - Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Inmates (Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act). This bill will allow LGBTQ individuals to request transfer to gender appropriate facilities based on their housing preference and overall safety concerns. This bill will also prohibit discrimination from an employee of a correctional facility against inmates on the basis of certain protected classes, including but not limited to ethnicity, disability, pregnancy status, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

We need this bill because LGBTQ inmates are more like to be victims of violence than the general population. LGBTQ individuals are more likely to be placed in solitary confinement due to being victims of violence. Passage and enforcement of this legislation will make Maryland prisons and jails more orderly and safer by eliminating one of the most consistent causes of harm to people inside facilities.

There is overwhelming support for making these changes. Leading organizations suppose housing for transgender incarcerated people based on gender or safety, including the American Medical Association, United Nations, and the World Health Organization. NASW Maryland is proud to join in support.

We urge a favorable response for SB 761.

Yvonne Davis, Chair
Forensics Committee
NASW-Maryland