



**Senate Bill 761
Correctional Facilities - Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Inmates
Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act
March 15, 2023
Support**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Baltimore Safe Haven is a social service organization that provides Baltimore City TLGBQ people currently living in survival mode with opportunities to thrive.

Baltimore Safe Haven is submitting this testimony in support of HB426, the Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act. This legislation would protect transgender, nonbinary, and intersex inmates who face a staggering amount of discrimination and violence while incarcerated.

With any history of incarceration being an overall barrier for quality of life, the trauma of misgendering, deadnaming, and mistreatment that transgender, nonbinary, and intersex inmates face makes our lives harder both within and outside of correctional facilities.

The wave of anti-trans legislation sweeping the nation is a chilling reality for transgender people. It is essential that we enshrine gender-affirming practices as the standard in the state of Maryland for the health and safety of all citizens.

We respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB426.