



Testimony of the Rockville Mayor and Council SB 84 – Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings – Gender-Inclusive Signage Support

The Mayor and Council of Rockville are thankful to Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Senator Kagan, Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee for the opportunity to share the City's comments on SB 84. We are thankful to Senator Kagan for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council strongly support SB 84 and its goal to make the use of single-occupancy public restrooms in public buildings and places of public accommodation more inclusive by requiring gender-neutral signage. **The City of Rockville has a long history of converting single-use bathrooms to be all gender.** The legislation also aligns with the Mayor and Council's vision to provide a welcoming and socially-equitable community for all. SB 84 would also benefit residents by facilitating access for parents and family members caring for a child that is a different gender.

Rockville's support and advocacy for its tapestry of race, religion, creed, ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientation, and culture will always be a central pillar of the City's commitment to its community. Rockville is respectful to different cultures and beliefs, and is a city committed to creating a welcoming community for all backgrounds. Since the summer of 2020, the City has embarked on a journey to become a more equitable community, including the establishment in FY22 of a Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (JEDI) team to implement the Mayor and Council priorities.

On June 27, 2022, the Mayor and Council adopted a Resolution, which proclaimed that the City staff responsible for the design, construction, renovation, and maintenance of City-owned facilities, will make every effort to incorporate gender-neutral restrooms whenever constructing or renovating public restrooms in a City-owned facility. Several Rockville facilities already have single-occupancy gender-neutral bathrooms and signage, including City Hall, Lincoln Park Community Center, Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. **The City of Rockville is also working to make the City's bathrooms baby-friendly, by installing diaper changing stations.**

We are very pleased to endorse State legislation, such as SB 84, that aligns with Rockville's priorities in support of inclusion and access for all. The City urges the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee as well as the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to provide SB 84 with a favorable report.