



Zeke Cohen  
Councilmember

Chair of the Baltimore City Trauma Informed Task Force  
First District

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Will Smith  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2E  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Smith & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Zeke Cohen, proud sponsor of Baltimore City Bill 19-0385, which requires single-user restrooms in our city to be gender inclusive. Our office fully supports SB84 “Gender Neutral Bathrooms” bill, requiring gender neutral signage for single-occupancy, public restrooms throughout the state of Maryland.

Senator Kagan’s bill centers inclusivity and aims to ensure access to public accommodation for all residents, which should be a top priority of the State of Maryland. The passing of this bill should normalize access to publicly-accessible, single-occupancy restroom across the state of Maryland—regardless of gender identity.

Indeed, since Baltimore City passed Bill 19-0385 in July 2019, there has been a smooth transition to implementation. The overwhelming number of businesses and residents have welcomed the inclusive move, without significant concern or pushback.

Bills like SB84 make restrooms available to communities as a whole. Gender-inclusive, single occupancy restrooms benefit many people, including women (who often face long waits at the restroom), nursing mothers, parents with children of a different gender, and people who depend on caretakers or assistants.

Discrimination on the basis of gender identity has been illegal in Maryland since 2014. The Fairness of All Marylanders Act (FAMA) prohibits gender-based discrimination in public accommodations. While FAMA includes single-occupancy restrooms, that legislation did not require changes to restroom signage. Senator Kagan’s bill will bring single-occupancy restroom signage in line with anti-discrimination measures that are already in place in the State.

For these reasons, I respectfully request the support of Senate Bill 84.

