

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for SB 0056  
Courts – Prohibited Indemnity and Defense Liability Agreements

Dear Chairman Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of AIA Maryland and the nearly 2,000 Architects we represent, we as an organization support the universal respect for human dignity and the unbiased treatment of all persons. We support SB 0084 and believe that the labeling of public restrooms with gender-inclusive signing simply reflects what is currently required by the 2021 International Plumbing code.

The International Code Council updates building codes every three years and the International Plumbing Code (IPC) is one component of the building codes. We believe the relevant section related to this bill is:

Section 403.1.2 Single-user toilet facility

The 2018 IPC states ... “shall be identified for use by either sex”

The 2021 IPC states ... “Shall be identified as being available for use by all persons regardless of their sex”

While we cannot speak to the enforcement of this requirement, we believe the language of SB 0084 to be consistent with the current building codes and consistent with the universal respect all persons deserve.

AIA Maryland cares deeply about the quality of Maryland’s built environment and we encourage steps to maintain the quality of health, safety and welfare of our residents, visitors and buildings throughout the state. We therefore respectfully ask that this committee support this bill to make fair and respectful access to bathroom facilities for all persons.

Sincerely,



Laurence A. Frank, AIA  
Director, Past President, AIA Maryland