<u>House Bill 1397 - FAVORABLE</u> Economic Matters Committee

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee;

Please give House Bill 1397, which would outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (among others), a Favorable report.

The Maryland Supreme Court did a real disservice to LGBTQ+ residents with their decision in John Doe vs. Catholic Relief Services. This bill will remediate that decision by specifying that LGBTQ+ people have the same right to not be discriminated against that we thought we had before the decision. The Maryland Supreme Court has also made it necessary to specify in legislation that people not be discriminated against on the basis of race, religion, and disability. I hope that you will recognize the basic humanity of all people, and vote for House Bill 1397 to move on to the floor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Debi Jasen Pasadena, MD