



Secular Maryland

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February 08, 2024

**SB 524 - FAV**

General Assembly - Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs - Gender-Neutral Language

Dear Chair Brian J. Feldman, Vice-Chair Cheryl C. Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Maryland laws are still littered with inappropriately sectarian, parochial, clannish, insular, narrow language and focus. Secular Maryland advocates for our laws being updated to utilize non-sectarian, neutral language and to more generally maintain a broader, more balanced, focus. Testimony from Secular Maryland is gender neutral. We seek a future where the gratuitous use of inappropriately sectarian words, such as "Bible" [Article - Commercial Law, Section 14-901, Article - Health - General, Section 14-402], "Gospel" [Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings, Section 9-111, Article - Family Law, Section], "Priest" [Article - Criminal Law, Section 10-402], "Minister" [Article - Corporations and Associations, Section 5-311, Article - Corporations and Associations, Section 5-307, Article - Labor and Employment, Section 8-208], "Church" [Article - Corporations and Associations, Section 5-326, Article - Corporations and Associations, Section 5-311, etc.], etc. are no longer found within our laws.

Respectfully,  
Mathew Goldstein  
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