



Secular Maryland

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February 16, 2024

**SB 590 - FAV**

Human Relations - Discrimination - Protected Characteristics (Equal Opportunity for All Marylanders Act)

Dear Chair William C. Smith Jr, Vice-Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Invidious discrimination hurts us as a society, it divides people and impedes people from realizing their potential. There should be no discrimination based on religious beliefs resulting in paying lower wages, reducing employment opportunities, mitigating a murder conviction penalty, or excusing a criminal assault. This bill providing more legal protections against discrimination based on religious beliefs is welcome. Secular Maryland favors firm protections against invidious discrimination for both employment and criminal convictions.

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