



**Letter of Support**  
**House Bill 1129 – Constitutional Officers – Gender-Neutral Language**  
*Health & Government Operations Committee*  
*March 10, 2025*

Thank you, Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Cullison, and honorable committee members. I come to you today supporting this bill as the 34th Comptroller of the State of Maryland and the first woman to hold this position.

In Maryland, when a public official is not explicitly referenced by their title, the language used defaults to “he, him, himself, or his.” This language is not only outdated, but it fails to reflect the diverse and inclusive reality of our state. Currently, of Maryland’s seven constitutional officers—the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Comptroller, Treasurer, and Adjutant General—four are held by women. This progress calls for a corresponding change in our state’s language.

The time has come to update the Maryland Constitution to use gender-neutral pronouns, language written long before women had the right to vote. Many states have already taken this important step, including California, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Utah, and Vermont. Maryland should be the next state to make this critical update.

I urge a favorable report on HB1129 and thank Delegate Dana Jones for introducing this corrective legislation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out me.

My best,

Brooke E. Lierman  
Maryland Comptroller

