

HB1055 Commission on Non-Discrimination - Establishment

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE

3/10/2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Shore Legal Access (formerly Mid-Shore Pro Bono) supports HB1055. This bill would be needed to ensure that Maryland has the fullest ability to protect the rights of Marylanders to live and work free from discrimination based on race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military status, disability, or other protected class. It is urgent that Maryland take action now to protect its citizens.

Shore Legal Access (SLA) connects people on the Eastern Shore with limited financial means to legal representation and essential community resources. Each year, SLA helps over 3,800 people in our community access the legal system when they would otherwise be shut out. Our small legal team and network of volunteer lawyers provide free legal services for eviction prevention, criminal record expungement, life and estate planning, family law, foreclosure, and consumer debt. These services help families gain financial and housing stability and create safe, secure homes for children.

SLA works with many people who are suffering the consequences and collateral damages caused by discrimination in employment, housing, education, and representation. It is often difficult for people in our communities to access the resources and relief they need and deserve. The prospect of disintegrating Federal protections makes it even more imperative that Maryland take action now. SLA supports HB1055 and urges the Committee's favorable recommendation on this bill. If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Meredith Girard, Executive Director at 410.690.8128 or e-mail mgirard@shorelegal.org.



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