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Constitutional Officers Gender Neutral Language

Good afternoon, Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 1129, Constitutional Officers, Gender Neutral Language.

HB 1129 updates the Maryland Constitution to real world realities. Replacing masculine generics with gender-neutral language.

Four constitutional offices including the Lt. Governor, Comptroller, the Secretary of State, and the Adjutant General are currently held by strong, competent and capable women.

Whether it is to keep a record of all official acts and negotiating new relationships with international partners, to managing the fiscal affairs of the state, to commanding the six thousand members of the Maryland National Guard, Lt. Governor Miller, Comptroller Lierman, Secretary Lee and I are proof that it is time for this 20th century paradigm on the capacity of leadership to end.

In closing, nine states have amended their constitutions using gender-neutral language and others are considering similar updates. Maryland should lead the charge and truly “Leave No One Behind.”

For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a favorable report for HB1129. Thank you for your time and consideration.