



LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Bill: **HB1055 Commission on Nondiscrimination - Establishment**

Organization: PFLAG Salisbury Inc., PO Box 5107, Salisbury Maryland 21802

Submitted by: Nicole Hollywood, Board Member

Position: **FAVORABLE**

This testimony is being submitted in FAVOR of HB 1055 on behalf of PFLAG Salisbury. HB 1055 would establish the Commission on Nondiscrimination to monitor and study nondiscrimination laws and regulations and the impacts of the actions of the federal government on those laws and regulations and to recommend legislation to address any deficiencies in nondiscrimination protections in Maryland. It would also be required to submit a report on its findings and recommendations, to the Governor and the General Assembly annually.

A wealth of psychological research consistently shows that experiencing discrimination can significantly increase stress levels, and that discrimination-related stress is strongly associated with various mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and even post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)- even in children.

Nondiscrimination laws and policies are crucial because they promote equality, fairness, and equal opportunities by preventing individuals from being treated differently based on characteristics like race, gender, religion, disability status, or sexual orientation, thereby creating a more inclusive environment where all individuals are able to contribute to all aspects of society in order to live full and productive lives.

Nondiscrimination laws and policies are particularly important to the LGBTQIA+ community and more specifically QTBIPOC who often are represented by many intersecting historically marginalized identities facing compounding disparities.

In conclusion, House Bill 1055 is an important bill that aligns with Maryland's commitment to inclusivity and ensuring greater protections against unequal or unfair treatment under State and local law so that all individuals have the opportunity to thrive.