



## FAVORABLE

HB1055 – Commission on Nondiscrimination – Establishment  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
March 10, 2025

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Committee,

The Trans Rights Advocacy Coalition (TRAC) is a Maryland-based, trans-led group working to ensure that all transgender and gender-expansive Marylanders are empowered to live safe and affirming lives. TRAC has a broad membership, including community members with lived experience, organizers, medical professionals, lawyers, researchers, religious leaders, allies, and more.

TRAC supports HB1055, which would enable Maryland to better protect our marginalized communities in a time of great legal and social upheaval. Sweeping federal Executive Orders demonstrate a concerted effort to undermine federal antidiscrimination protections and target marginalized communities. For example, recent Executive Orders attempt to define transgender people out of existence;<sup>1</sup> direct changes in interpretation of federal antidiscrimination law to encourage exclusion and harm to transgender people and other marginalized communities in healthcare, shelters, schools, sports, prisons, and the military;<sup>2</sup> and threaten the loss of funding to those who maintain practices of diversity, equity, and inclusion.<sup>3</sup> As described by a federal judge, “We are dealing with unadulterated animus.”<sup>4</sup>

As the federal landscape continues to shift, it is imperative that Maryland is prepared to act and protect our communities. HB1055 would create a commission that is equipped to examine complicated legal changes and guide Maryland on best practices to ensure all Marylanders are able to live safe, full, and joyful lives.

For these reasons, the Trans Rights Advocacy Coalition urges a favorable report on HB1055.

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 14168, “Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government,” 90 Fed. Reg. 8615 (Jan. 20, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*; Executive Order 14187, “Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation,” 90 Fed. Reg. 8771 (Jan. 28, 2025); Executive Order 14190, “Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling,” 90 Fed. Reg. 8853 (Jan. 29, 2025); Executive Order 14201, “Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports,” 90 Fed. Reg. 9279 (Feb. 5, 2025); Executive Order 14183, “Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness,” 90 Fed. Reg. 8757 (Jan. 27, 2025).

<sup>3</sup> Executive Order 14151, “Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing,” 90 Fed. Reg. 8339 (Jan. 20, 2025); Executive Order 14173, “Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity,” 90 Fed. Reg. 8633 (Jan. 21, 2025).

<sup>4</sup> GLAAD, “*Unadulterated Animus*”: Judge Exposes Inaccurate and Absurd Claims in Trump’s Executive Orders Targeting Transgender People (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://glaad.org/judge-exposes-inaccurate-and-absurd-claims-in-trumps-executive-orders-targeting-transgender-people/>.