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Dear Distinguished Delegates,

My name is Dorien Rogers, State President of the NAACP Maryland Youth State Conference, and I am writing to express support for passage of House Bill 1368 within our great state of Maryland.

Within our state history, we are defined based on our ability to reach the mountaintop of self determination. A theme, etched in the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, with a canvas which reflects the honest truths in which oppression, inequity, and the pursuit of containing ones happiness. Yet, it was the very Marylanders who took a stand in ensuring their fellow neighbors can achieve these ideals regardless of one's opinion in how someone should live their life. This reflects the importance of providing a pathway for our intersectional families to allow their children the pathway to self determination through their birth certificate through the full protections of the state of Maryland.

Too often do we allow the serpents of mis/disinformation to factionalize our ability to provide access for Marylanders to obtain access to these fundamental yet crucial reforms. This comes as sources circulate ideas that this bill changes the existing state policies in regards to housing intersectional incarcerated transgender people. This bill does not enforce participation in school sports. This bill does not change the medical standards of care for transgender health for adults or youth. Furthermore, this bill does not impact existing processes for obtaining state IDs.

The passage of this bill is critical in our continued commitment to Maryland's to setting the tone for our nation. Regardless of our political ideologies, faith, experiences, we must remember that it starts with us acknowledging all our intersectional Marylanders. For our inability to pass this bill merely prevents us from seeing that our diverse Marylanders are still here.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dorien Rogers".

Best Wishes

In Union Strength

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