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LETTER OF SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 487 & SENATE BILL 484

February 18, 2025

Chair Clippinger and Chair Smith:

On behalf of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, we are writing to express our support of **HB487/SB484: Unhoused Individuals - Rights, Civil Action, and Affirmative Defense**. As advocates and stewards of the LGBTQ+ community, we believe this bill will protect, strengthen, and secure LGBTQ+ rights for all LGBTQ+ residents. The benefits and effects of passing the proposed legislation will create a positive and long-lasting change for all of Maryland.

HB487/SB484 prevents government agencies from forcefully removing unhoused individuals engaging in life-sustaining activities from public facilities without providing them with “adequate alternative indoor space”. Currently, unhoused individuals fall victim to incarceration for simply carrying out their daily tasks. LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

Thank you for considering the bill's positive effects on the LGBTQ+ community. Please contact us with any additional questions or concerns about the bill. We appreciate your efforts in fostering community and furthering rights for all Marylanders.

Respectfully,

Delegate Kris Fair,
Chair