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March 10, 2026

TO: The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 1488 - Constitutional Language – Modernization (Support)

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports House Bill 1488 - Constitutional Language - Modernization. HB 1488 amends the Maryland Constitution to replace gendered language with gender-neutral terminology throughout the Constitution's Declaration of Rights and Articles I through XVI.

This legislation directly supports our efforts to advance equity, fairness, inclusivity, and equality for all Marylanders. The Office of the Attorney General is deeply committed to these values in everything we do, and it is important that our governing documents reflect them as well. The language embedded in our Constitution shapes how Marylanders perceive their rights, their roles, and their place in civic life, and ensuring that language is inclusive of all people is a natural and necessary extension of that commitment. This is not the first time Maryland has undertaken this kind of update: in 1982, Maryland voters approved Question 1, replacing gender-specific references in the Constitution with gender-neutral language by nearly three-quarters of the vote.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General respectfully urges the Committee to give House Bill 1488 a favorable report.

Cc: Members of the Committee