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**LETTER OF SUPPORT
HOUSE BILL 0549 / SENATE BILL 931**

February 24, 2026

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, we are writing to express our support of **HB0549/SB931: Maryland Public Ethics Law- Virtual Currency and Domestic Partners**. As advocates for the LGBTQ+ community in the General Assembly, we believe the benefits and effects of passing the proposed legislation will create a positive and long-lasting change for all of Maryland.

Among other things, HB0549/SB931 adds domestic partners to the individuals treated like spouses under the Maryland Public Ethics Law. In expanding spousal treatment to domestic partners and registered domestic partners, Maryland would move closer to closing a continuing gap in treatment between nonmarried families and married families under ethics law. Many LGBTQ+ couples are in domestic partnerships rather than marriages, often due to historical or legal barriers, and all manner of families may decide to be in a partnership rather than a marriage. Treating spouses and domestic partners as legally equivalent in this circumstance ensures that all families, including LGBTQ+ families, are equal in the eyes of the state and that these relationships deserve the same legal recognition, accountability, and respect as other family structures.

Thank you for considering the bill's positive effects on the LGBTQ+ community. Please reach out to us regarding any additional questions or concerns on the bill.

Respectfully,

Delegate Kris Fair
Chair