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February 18 2026

SB 0604 - FAV

Adoption, Foster Care, and Public Services - Prohibition Against Discrimination

Dear Chair [William C. Smith, Jr.](#), Vice Chair [Jeff Waldstreicher](#), and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Invidious discrimination hurts us as a society, it divides people and impedes people from realizing their potential. The government sector in particular has a responsibility to not participate in, or otherwise facilitate, invidious discrimination. There should be no exception for government provided human services. This bill requiring state human services and the recipients of state human service funding to uphold non-discrimination standards is welcome. Secular Maryland recommends this bill for approval by the General Assembly.

Too often people who are unlike ourselves are seen as threatening, triggering misdirected fear. Minorities can be vulnerable to negative stereotyping. Some theists deem non-theism to be peculiar, unreasonable, or threatening. They misunderstand non-theism and may associate non-theism with negative behavior. The metaphysical naturalism underlying non-theism is an intellectual conclusion that nontheists (deists, agnostics, atheists) sincerely consider to be more compelling than the competing conclusions.

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