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**LETTER OF SUPPORT
SENATE BILL 0604**

February 25, 2026

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, we are writing to express our support of **SB0604: Adoption, Foster Care, and Public Services - Prohibition Against Discrimination**. As advocates for the LGBTQ+ community in the General Assembly, we believe this bill will protect, strengthen, and secure 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.

SB0604 would prohibit a child placement agency from denying a prospective parent's application to adopt a child based on certain characteristics, with certain exceptions. The bill would also prohibit the Social Services Administration of the Department of Human Services and certain agencies, institutions, and facilities from discriminating against a foster parent, a prospective foster parent, or a child in foster care based on certain characteristics. The LGBTQ+ community has historically faced barriers in adoption and foster care, including agencies that may refuse to place children with them because of sexual orientation or gender identity. This bill will help solidify equal access to adoption and foster care, protect LGBTQ+ youth from discrimination in child welfare systems, and ensure nondiscrimination protections in state-supported services and employment. Codifying these prohibitions strengthens protections and lowers ambiguity, helping make Maryland's systems more inclusive and equitable for LGBTQ+ individuals and families.

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. We appreciate your efforts in fostering community and furthering rights for all Marylanders.

Respectfully,

Delegate Kris Fair
Chair