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### **LETTER OF SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1209/SENATE BILL 0950**

March 2, 2026

Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, we are writing to express our support of **HB1209/SB0950: Conversion Therapy – Prohibitions and Causes of Action**. As advocates for the LGBTQ+ community in the General Assembly, we believe this bill will protect, strengthen, and secure rights for all LGBTQ+ residents to be free from harmful “medical” practices.

HB1209/SB0950 clarifies that any injury resulting from conversion therapy can be brought in court as a health care malpractice action and extends the statute of limitations to allow victims the ability and time to sue over harms endured during conversion therapy, as the psychological harms often do not become apparent to the victim until years afterwards. Conversion therapy is a discredited treatment used by some mental health practitioners in an attempt to change or suppress a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity. This practice lacks scientific evidence of effectiveness, but has been shown to increase suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, and depression in victims. The science is clear: LGBTQ+ sexual orientations and gender identities are not mental disorders needing to be resolved, and recipients of this harm should be able to seek damages against those inducing harm through conversion therapy.

Maryland has already banned this practice, but this bill is necessary because the Supreme Court is poised to strike down similar bans nationwide in the upcoming case *Chiles v. Salazar*, which we anticipate will be released before June. This bill is thus of critical importance so Marylanders who are victims of conversion therapy will have legal remedy should the Court strike down our state’s existing ban.

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,

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Delegate Kris Fair, Chair