



**EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

Delegate Kris Fair  
*Chair*  
Delegate Joe Vogel  
*Vice Chair*  
Delegate Anne Kaiser  
*Legislative Chair*  
Delegate Ashanti Martinez  
*Legislative Chair*  
Delegate Gabriel Acevero  
*Secretary*  
Delegate Dylan Behler  
Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Delegate Bonnie Cullison  
Senator Mary Washington  
Delegate Teresa Woorman

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Delegate Nick Allen  
Delegate Heather Bagnall  
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett  
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian  
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield  
Delegate Eric Ebersole  
Delegate Jessica Feldmark  
Delegate Linda Foley  
Delegate Cathi Forbes  
Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo  
Delegate Pam Guzzone  
Delegate Anne Healey  
Delegate Dana Jones  
Delegate Andrew Kaufman  
Delegate Ben Kramer  
Delegate Mary Lehman  
Delegate Robbyn Lewis  
Delegate Lesley Lopez  
Delegate Bernice Mireku-North  
Delegate David Moon  
Delegate Cheryl Pasteur  
Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr  
Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk  
Delegate Andrew Pruski  
Delegate Lily Qi  
Delegate Sheila Ruth  
Delegate Ryan Spiegel  
Delegate Karen Simpson  
Delegate Jen Terrasa  
Delegate Courtney Watson  
Delegate Greg Wims  
Senator Guy Guzzone  
Senator Shaneka Henson  
Senator Shelly Hettleman  
Senator Nancy King  
Senator Clarence Lam  
Senator Karen Lewis Young  
Senator Sara Love  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher  
Senator Craig Zucker

**LETTER OF SUPPORT  
HOUSE BILL 0626**

February 24, 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 **HB0626: Custodial Interrogation of Minors - Admissibility of Statements (Exonerated 5 Act)**. 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.

HB0626 would establish a certain rebuttable presumption that a statement made by a minor during a custodial interrogation is involuntary and is inadmissible in juvenile or criminal proceedings against the minor, if the law enforcement officer intentionally used information known by the officer to be false in order to elicit the statement. This bill would have a positive impact on LGBTQ+ youth because LGBTQ+ young people are disproportionately vulnerable in the juvenile justice system. False confessions are a documented issue among minors generally. However, when layered with LGBTQ+ specific vulnerabilities, the risk increases. By creating a rebuttable presumption that statements obtained through intentional deception are involuntary, the bill discourages manipulative tactics, reduces wrongful convictions, and protects LGBTQ+ youth from unjust legal outcomes.

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