



House Bill 1011

Workgroup on Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students - Established Support

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Honorable Members of the Ways & Means Committee,

We proudly present comments from Marylanders supporting HB1011. This legislation would create a workgroup to study the experiences of students, figure out ways to support them, and make explicit recommendations for further policy changes they can adopt to improve the lives of trans and gender expansive students in Maryland.

This bill will help legislators develop statewide policies that standardize and improve the treatment of transgender and gender diverse students across jurisdictions in Maryland, because the county a student happens to live in should not determine what protections and rights they have.

Public Comments:

As a licensed healthcare provider serving in a Maryland public school system- I urge you to support the following bills that ensure the safety and protection of rights for transgender children in our state. As one of the nation's leaders in LGBTQ rights - it is critical, now more than ever, that we are deliberate, clear, loud, and unwavering in our support for this community and to protect all kids from harm.

Please support: HB 1032: Prekindergarten Programs and Primary and Secondary Schools - Student Privacy Policy Requirements and Discrimination Reporting

– Tisha Shah, Ellicott City

Please support the workgroup bill in order to ensure that all Marylanders are being counted and helped.

– Nicholas Knight, Annapolis

My family relocated to Maryland because it's a safe place for my trans child. But the safety for my child isn't everywhere in Maryland, it's dependent on the local leaders, the local government, the school district and the individual people we interact with. Trans people deserve to have support and knowledge

that there's a structure and expectation for following state law, not just relying on each individual's kindness. Please support this.

– Mike S, Baltimore

I'm a parent of a trans student. We sought Maryland out as a safe space for them to grow up. Please protect them!

– Hannah George, Baltimore

I am a grandmother of a trans youth attending Maryland schools. I encourage you to approve HB1011 so my grandchild and others can thrive in our schools. Maryland has the opportunity to stand up for all students.

– Grandmother of an amazing trans youth, Baltimore

Please study the experiences of Trans students so that thoughtful decisions can be made.

– Thomas George, Baltimore

I support the creation of this workgroup, which would provide much needed guidelines, benchmarks, and assessments to school districts, many of whom say they support their trans students, but then don't know how to go about doing so. It is of the utmost importance, however, that this workgroup include members of the community: parents of trans kids, parents who are trans, and/or trans activists whose lived experience will provide much needed expertise to this workgroup.

– Amy Isler, Catonsville

As the parent of a fantastic trans kid who attended Prince George's County Public Schools, I can say that school was one the most difficult and affirming spaces for them. We had to push their school to follow district policies and state anti discrimination policies. Teachers were not always supportive either and insisted on calling them by their old name despite a legal name change. Filing complaints was an exhausting experience and did nothing to resolve the issues. In Anne Arundel County Public Schools we have seen a stark difference in how a school can be a supportive environment. A student's zip code should not determine whether school will be an affirming space or a discriminatory space. Please pass HB1011.

A.W., Arnold