

## **SUPPORT [HB1011](#) Workgroup on Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students – Established**

Hearing on 3/4/26 at 1 pm in House Ways and Means

Dear Chairperson Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark and members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

We represent the Coalition for LGBTQ+ Students in and we urge you to **support HB1011**.

Our Coalition's mission is to provide support to LGBTQIA students in Anne Arundel County through education, policy and advocacy. In this role, we work closely with our local school system to identify and resolve problems experienced by LGBTQIA youth in public schools. We know that LGBTQIA youth greatly benefit from consistent and specific interventions that make schools safer, more welcoming and more affirming. This is particularly true for students who are gender diverse or transgender. Research from organizations like GLSEN and the Trevor Project clearly shows that LGBTQIA students fare much better in school systems that understand their needs and have policies and regulations in place to ensure their safety and well-being (<https://glsenmd.org>). Unfortunately, schools in Maryland vary greatly from county to county in terms of their understanding of the needs of LGBTQIA youth. There are many counties in Maryland that do not have the resources or the knowledge to provide the type of supportive educational environments that these children deserve and need.

This is why we need a state wide workgroup that focuses on the needs of LGBTQIA youth in all counties in Maryland. A workgroup would give us the tools to identify what different school environments are like for transgender and gender nonconforming students and how to rectify the problems that are present. It would help ensure that students across the entire state are attending schools that can meet their needs, thus improving academic, social and psychological outcomes.

Our Coalition works closely with LGBTQIA youth and we know that many of these students continue to experience harassment, bias and hate in our schools. Because HB1011 would create a workgroup to determine best ways to support transgender and gender-diverse students in Maryland Public Schools, it provides an important way to gather information about this problem and to develop recommendations that are effective and meaningful. This would be a life saver for many children in Maryland. Please do what you can to assist these children, who are already marginalized, misunderstood and under attack throughout this country. Please make Maryland a state where all children are respected and supported in school.

**We urge you to give a favorable report on HB1011.**

Sincerely,

The Coalition for LGBTQ+ Students  
[www.coalition4lgbtqstudents.org](http://www.coalition4lgbtqstudents.org)

