



**Testimony in SUPPORT of  
House Bill 1011: Workgroup on Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students – Established  
Ways & Means Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

March 4, 2026

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future so every student in our state is equipped to thrive upon graduation. As a result, Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable **vote on House Bill 1011**, which would establish a work group to study ways to support transgender and gender diverse students in public schools in the State and make recommendations regarding statewide statutory and regulatory policies.

Transgender and gender diverse students experience active threats and the potential for harm to their physical/emotional safety, and lack support in many of our public schools. This is not specific to Maryland, this is a national public health concern for our students. The American Medical Association specializing in pediatrics published that the rise of **anti-transgender legislation is a public health concern for children**. Furthermore, transgender students are more likely to feel unsafe, experience bullying, and be injured by a weapon in schools.<sup>1</sup> Nationally, 80% transgender students have said they avoided bathrooms at school, 70% avoid school locker rooms, and 60% avoid participating in physical education classes, all due to safety concerns.<sup>2</sup> These safety concerns are worsening in the current landscape. With both Federal and local threats to transgender and gender nonconforming youth increasing in proposed policy, we must act now to protect and include these student groups.<sup>3</sup>

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a school system that is inclusive to *all* Maryland students, this includes our LGBTQ+ (specifically our transgender and gender diverse students). As a public health concern, it is imperative to gather resources, expertise, and those with lived experiences to research best practices that can be strategically implemented to support and protect the physical and mental well being of Maryland students. Policies such as HB1011 help to move us forward by convening a group of those with expertise, those with decision making power, and those impacted in order to develop and implement these best practices rooted in inclusion.

**For these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable report on House Bill 1011.**

For more information, contact Kenzie Funk: [kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org](mailto:kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org)

<sup>1</sup> [Anti-Transgender Legislation-A Public Health Concern for Transgender Youth](#).

<sup>2</sup> [The Importance of Sports Participation for Transgender Youth](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Epidemic of Violence Against the Transgender & Gender-Expansive Community in the US](#)