

My name is Michael LaMarco, and I am writing on behalf of Annapolis Pride in support of HB1011.

HB1011 takes a thoughtful and necessary step by establishing a workgroup to study how Maryland can better support transgender and gender diverse students. This bill recognizes that students deserve learning environments where they feel safe, respected, and able to focus on their education without fear of discrimination or exclusion.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I know how deeply school climate and policies can affect a young person's sense of safety and belonging. Transgender and gender diverse students often face higher rates of bullying, isolation, and mental health challenges. Creating a formal workgroup allows Maryland to bring together educators, experts, and stakeholders to develop informed, evidence based recommendations that improve student well being and educational outcomes.

Importantly, this bill does not impose immediate mandates. Instead, it creates a structured, collaborative process to evaluate current practices and identify solutions grounded in research and lived experience. This is a responsible and measured approach that allows policymakers to make informed decisions that benefit students, families, and schools.

Supporting transgender and gender diverse students is fundamentally about ensuring that every student has an equal opportunity to learn and succeed. When students feel safe and supported, they are more likely to attend school, engage in their education, and reach their full potential.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge support of HB1011.