



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Economic Matters Committee

March 3, 2020

HB1147: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)

Position: Support as amended



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The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such, the DD Coalition supports SB401 as amended.



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The Coalition applauds this effort. This legislation seeks to move our State, one small step at a time, towards full equity for all Marylanders, including those with disabilities. **The sponsor amendments strengthen this bill and represent the work of a collaborative, stakeholder centered approach.**



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Sponsor Amendment:

GENDER-INCLUSIVE SIGNAGE” MEANS A SIGN IDENTIFYING A RESTROOM THAT DOES NOT INDICATE A SPECIFIC GENDER, THAT INCLUDES WORDS SUCH AS “RESTROOM,” “BATHROOM,” OR “TOILET,” AND A SYMBOL INDICATING THE RESTROOM’S AVAILABILITY FOR USE BY ANY INDIVIDUAL REGARDLESS OF GENDER, SUCH AS A PICTURE OR ICON OF A “TOILET” OR SIMPLY A SYMBOL INDICATING THE RESTROOM’S AVAILABILITY FOR USE BY ANY INDIVIDUAL REGARDLESS OF GENDER, SUCH AS A PICTURE OR ICON OF A “TOILET.”



Maryland Developmental
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People with disabilities require a variety of support needs – sometimes with personal care. Gender-neutral bathrooms, in general, are more inclusive and for people with disabilities, who may receive support from someone of a different gender, remove an arbitrary barrier to everyday comfort. However, one commonality is the need to quickly and clearly identify which door leads to a bathroom and whether that bathroom is intended for them personally.

Relying on text alone and specifically prohibiting a pictogram risked confusing or excluding a person with a disability from the most basic of human need. The amendments, as offered, address those concerns by providing for both text and a symbol.



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