



House Bill 0155  
An Act Concerning  
County Boards and Nonpublic Prekindergarten Programs and Schools -  
Discrimination - Prohibition  
SUPPORT

GLSEN Maryland  
% Greg Brightbill  
4515 Ingham Road  
Owings Mills, MD 21117

January 18, 2021

Ways & Means Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
House Office Building, Room 131  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senators,

On behalf of GLSEN MD, I write to you today in support of House Bill 0155; An Act Concerning County Boards and Nonpublic Prekindergarten Programs and Schools - Discrimination - Prohibition. This legislation would codify anti-discrimination protections for all students in grades pre-K to 12 attending public schools or schools that receive public funds.

We support this legislation because, currently, there is only “guidance” to suggest that schools not discriminate against our children. Without the weight of law behind it, this guidance can be and is ignored by many. Maryland is not providing a free, appropriate education to all if it is not accessible to some based on their marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identities. By requiring schools to spell out non-discrimination policies that honor all children, students and their parents/guardians will have firm legal grounds to stand up against inequitable treatment in schools. This is what all our children deserve.

According to GLSEN's 2017 National School Climate Survey, many LGBTQ students in Maryland reported discriminatory policies or practices at their school. **Nearly 3 in 5 (57%) experienced at least one form of anti-LGBTQ discrimination at school** during the past year. Furthermore, **fewer than 1 in 5 (18%) attended a school with a comprehensive anti-bullying/harassment policy** that included specific protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Fewer than 1 in 5 (17%) had a policy or official guidelines to support transgender or gender nonconforming (trans/ GNC) students.



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In the interest of equity and the wellbeing of the children of Maryland, we urge you to pass House Bill 0155.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly Mooney!".

Sincerely,  
Kimberly Mooney Board Chair, GLSEN MD  
Contact: [chair@md.glsen.org](mailto:chair@md.glsen.org)  
443.291.9359