



March 9, 2022

SB0666: Written Testimony - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

We are writing on behalf of Metro D.C. Chapter of PFLAG in Support of SB0666, which would prohibit discrimination against any person on the basis of “race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability” in K-12 public schools and in other schools that receive public funding, and require such schools to publicly post that policy in their Student Handbooks.

The protections for LGBTQ+ students are crucial because these students often are very vulnerable to discrimination based on their orientation or identity. These protections are needed to ensure that LGBTQ+ students are treated fairly and equally. Under this proposal, the State Superintendent of Education, may, upon adjudication of an administrative complaint, require the State Comptroller to withhold funding from schools that are found to violate these requirements. Public funds should not be blanketly available to schools which refuse to afford such protections. The State should not be a party to discrimination against LGBTQ+ people and their families, or other discrimination listed in the proposed legislation.

Everyone deserves a safe and equal learning environment, and this bill will go a long way toward assuring that Maryland’s public schools and other schools receiving public funding will not discriminate.

We urge a Favorable Report on SB0666.

Thank you,

Mark Eckstein (he/him), Rockville MD
David S. Fishback (he/him), Olney MD
Co-Chairs for Maryland Advocacy, Metro DC Chapter of PFLAG

www.pflagdc.org

Keeping Families Together!

Metro DC PFLAG is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, volunteer organization founded in 1983 and operating fifteen (15) PFLAG Community Groups across Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia. As a chapter of PFLAG, we strive to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and their families and friends through support, education, and advocacy to end discrimination and secure equal rights.