



### **HB1118 Health Care Facilities – Discrimination**

Presented to the Hon. Shane Pendergrass and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee  
March 9, 2021 1:30p.m.

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#### **POSITION: SUPPORT**

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland urges Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB1118 Health Care Facilities – Discrimination**, sponsored by Delegate Gabriel Acevero.

Our organization is an advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice. As part of our efforts to protect reproductive freedom for all Marylanders, we work to ensure every individual has the right to decide if, when, and how to form their families, and to parent in good health, in safety, and with dignity. In doing so, we support the right of all people to access sexual and reproductive healthcare without fear of discrimination and harassment based on gender identity, gender expression, HIV status, or sexual orientation.

In 2018, FreeState Justice published a [needs assessment](#) showing that more than one-third of LGBTQ+ Maryland survey participants had serious concerns about their access to affirming, quality healthcare.<sup>1</sup> Two illustrative quotes from the paper highlighting this discrimination can be seen in the image on the next page. Furthermore, national survey data from the Center for American Progress found that 29% of transgender respondents reported that a doctor denied them care due to their perceived or real gender identity, and 8% of cisgender respondents were denied care because of their sexual orientation.<sup>2</sup>

By increasing visibility of healthcare providers' non-discrimination policies, HB1118 would work to ensure that more individuals seeking healthcare are aware of their rights and can speak up if their rights are being violated. It would also respect the privacy of trans and gender non-conforming (GNC) folks by ensuring that medical staff who aren't actually providing any care for that person cannot be present during a physical examination; trans and GNC folks deserve to access healthcare without being treated like animals at the zoo. We also strongly support the right for members of the LGBTQ+ community to seek sexual and reproductive healthcare without judgement and gender-based stereotyping, especially among those seeking preventative measures such as pap smears and contraception, as well as becoming pregnant and bearing healthy children. Lastly, we support the bill's language requiring documentation of patients' names, gender identity, and pronouns so as to diminish misgendering and the use of "dead names."

For these reasons, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland **urges a favorable committee report on HB1118**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> Agostini, Saida M. (2018). Pushing Back: A Blueprint for Change. Lessons Learned from the 2016 Needs Assessment of LGBTQ Marylanders [Pushing-Back-A-Blueprint-for-Change.pdf \(freestate-justice.org\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> Center for American Progress. Widespread Discrimination Continues to Shape LGBT People's Lives in Both Subtle and Significant Ways. 2017  
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*"i said i was a lesbian, the doctor responded, 'i don't know what you think you're doing here,' and was then asked to leave the office."*

Listening Session Respondent, Wicomico

*"People have come into the ER reporting that their doctors told them they weren't trans, they were sick in the head."*

Listening Session Respondent, Boyd