

To: Howard County Council

Re: Letter of Support CB20-21; The Inclusive Bathrooms Act

I am writing this letter to show support for CB20-21, The Inclusive Bathrooms Act. The Arc of Howard County is a longstanding provider of disability services in the Howard community. For 60 years, our agency has been providing supports to adults with developmental disabilities.

As I read CB20-21; The Inclusive Bathrooms Act, I see merit in passing such legislation to increase accessibility for people with disabilities and the ease with which they can enjoy their community.

We support more than 260 individuals that live and work in Howard County and it is important that they have a sense of comfort when they need to utilize public facilities. People with developmental disabilities want and need the opportunity to meaningfully participate in their communities whether to work, go out with friends and family, attend events, shop, and worship, among other things.

Many of our individuals have family members and support staff that they travel with when moving about the community. These individuals are typically assisting with providing personal care while out in the community. This bill will be a critical step to decreasing barriers to full community inclusion and ensuring that privacy and dignity is afforded.

Steps such as passing this legislation will improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and for this reason, we strongly support CB20-21.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Parr
Executive Director

Sayers, Margery

From: ying matties <ymatties@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 20-2021

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Dear County Council members,

I am writing to support CB20-2021. As the parent of a non-binary child, I am keenly aware of the significance of inclusive bathroom access. For the transgender folks, this is a matter of both dignity and personal safety. I applaud Council member Rigby for sponsoring this bill.

The pre-filed legislation has language to exclude county-owned properties, unless the county develops and implements a policy of inclusive bathrooms by 12/31/2023. This is rather confusing and seems unnecessary since the bill itself is intended to accomplish what a policy is supposed to do, I hope the Council would consider adding an amendment to remove this exclusion.

I appreciate your time and service!

Best,

Ying Matties
she/her