



Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

Transgender Day of Visibility Statement & Call to Action

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs was created to serve as the independent voice for LGBTQIA+ Marylanders, to assess the challenges facing our communities, and to provide recommendations and best practices to promote equity and inclusion. We approach this work with integrity, transparency, and deep responsibility to those we serve.

We remain deeply grateful to Governor Wes Moore for his past and ongoing support. We strongly support the Governor and his efforts to champion LGBTQIA+ rights. His leadership on key issues has helped advance the rights and well-being of transgender Marylanders, including:

- Signing the [Trans Health Equity Act](#), which expanded access to gender-affirming care for Medicaid recipients;
- Issuing an [Executive Order](#) protecting access to gender-affirming care and effectively declaring Maryland a safe haven for transgender communities;
- Recognizing [Transgender Day of Visibility](#) in the State House for the first time in Maryland history in 2023 and each year since;
- Appointing transgender, nonbinary, Two Spirit, and gender diverse [commissioners](#) at historic levels, helping ensure meaningful representation and leadership.

These actions have made a real and lasting difference in the lives of transgender Marylanders.

Last week, during the Transgender Day of Visibility ceremony at the State House, the Commission's Chair offered remarks reflecting the real fears, concerns, and hopes of the trans community. These remarks were not a call-out, but a call to action. The Chair's words echoed the thousands of voices we've heard across the state through phone calls, emails, and messages on social media to our staff, commissioners, and their affiliated organizations. The remarks also aligned with our findings from our [Post-Election LGBTQIA+ Community Insights Report](#), in which nearly 800 Marylanders from all 24 jurisdictions responded, expressing urgent concerns about safety, healthcare, and inclusion amid a wave of escalating national attacks on trans lives. Delivered with respect and courage, and grounded in data and lived experience, the Chair's remarks embodied the Commission's core responsibility: to advocate, to speak truth, and to uplift the voices of LGBTQIA+ communities.

We are in a national state of emergency for transgender rights, particularly for transgender youth, families, service members and veterans. The federal government has launched a coordinated effort to dismantle protections, restrict healthcare, and erase transgender people from public life. The urgency is real, and the stakes are high. The cost of inaction will be measured in lives.

Call to Action: This is a time that demands unity, strategy, and partnership, not division and distraction. The LGBTQIA+ and transgender communities need meaningful, sustained action from every level of government and the broader public and private sectors. That's why the Commission has submitted comprehensive policy and budgetary recommendations and continues to elevate the most urgent issues impacting LGBTQIA+ Marylanders, including:

- **Lack of dedicated funding and resources**, especially for transgender communities under direct and escalating attack;
- **Barriers to affirming healthcare**, including transition-related care, sexual health services, and HIV treatment and prevention;
- **Housing insecurity and homelessness**, particularly for LGBTQIA+ youth, elders, and the economically insecure;
- **Discrimination in education and employment**, from attacks on LGBTQIA+ youth and efforts to erase inclusion in schools, to the targeted exclusion of trans service members and veterans, all of which undermine belonging, opportunity, and financial security;
- **Escalating violence, harassment, and hate**, especially in rural communities, where LGBTQIA+ people often face isolation and heightened risk.

Since our inception, we have held accessible [public meetings](#), published detailed annual reports and policy priorities, issued statements in response to local and national events, and led initiatives to advance equity and inclusion. Our meetings are open to the public, and our doors are always open. We are accountable to the LGBTQIA+ community, not just in words, but through our work.

We invite community members, government agencies, and advocacy partners to review our publications and recommendations, including:

- [Statement on the Federal Attacks on Transgender Marylanders – Adopted 3.10.2025](#)
- [2025 Legislative Policy Priorities – Amended 2.21.2025](#)
- [A Decade of Data: Meta-Analysis of Data and Insights on the Experiences of LGBTQIA+ People in Maryland – Adopted 1.13.2025](#)
- [Post-Election LGBTQIA+ Community Insights Report – Adopted 1.13.2025](#)
- [Statement on the National Defense Authorization Act – Adopted 1.13.2025](#)
- [Urgent Call to Address HIV Funding Crisis in Maryland – Adopted 5.13.2024](#)
- [2024 Policy Priorities, Recommendations, and Best Practices – Adopted 11.13.2023](#)
- [Recommendations and Best Practices for LGBTQIA+ Inclusion for State Agencies – Adopted 11.13.2023](#)
- [Recommendations for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students – Adopted 9.11.2023](#)

Additionally, the Commission has released two annual reports ([2022](#) and [2023](#)), with the 2024 Annual Report forthcoming this May. These reports reflect our findings, amplify community voices, highlight the Moore-Miller Administration's progress, and provide recommendations for further LGBTQIA+ equity and inclusion.

We remain deeply committed to working in partnership with the Moore-Miller Administration, the General Assembly, state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community partners to ensure LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are seen, protected, and supported in policy, budget, and in practice.

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs will continue to uplift community voices, publish data-informed recommendations, and advocate for inclusive policies rooted in equity, accountability, and care. Our work is grounded in a vision of a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives with safety, dignity, and joy.

To our partners in advocacy and government: let us move forward together, with humility and resolve, grounded in facts and united in purpose. We invite all those working toward equity, justice, and inclusion to join us in that work.

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The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, serves as the independent voice for LGBTQIA+ Marylanders. The Commission works to galvanize community voices, research and address challenges, and advocate for policies that advance equity and inclusion. We envision a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. The Commission collaborates with public officials, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected, supported, and affirmed.

To learn more about our commissioners, public meetings, and to access resources, policy publications, recommendations, and reports, visit our website: <https://goci.maryland.gov/lgbtq/>

To connect and partner with us, email: LGBTQIA@maryland.gov