



# NEWS RELEASE

[ucbpride@gmail.com](mailto:ucbpride@gmail.com)

For Release: March 28, 2022

## **Statement on Legislation that Negatively Impacts LGBTQIA+ Individuals and Communities**

So far in 2022, there has been a great deal of national media coverage about anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation in Florida and Texas—namely Florida’s “Parental Rights in Education” (aka, “Don’t Say Gay”) bill and Texas Governor Abbott’s efforts to criminalize gender-affirming health care. UCB Pride denounces all types of anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation. These two particular pieces of legislation are part of a series of bills proposed nationwide by conservative lawmakers attempting to earn political favor on the backs of marginalized people.

While we are thankful that such efforts generally do not go unchallenged in the Maryland General Assembly, it is important to know that conservative lawmakers in Harford and Cecil counties continue to try to push for similar bills:

**House Bill 618:** Maryland Parental Rights Act. This is a cut-and-paste piece of legislation (see above) sponsored by Delegates Arian, Reilly, and Szeliga that is designed to thwart a school’s efforts to teach students about sexuality in age-appropriate ways. It also makes it illegal for healthcare providers to provide health services to minors without the consent of their parents.

**House Bill 757:** The Save Women’s Sports Act would prevent trans students from participating in sports based on their gender identity. This is a complex and emerging discussion in the world of sports. Unfortunately, the bill offers a reductionist solution that marginalizes trans kids and teens. Even though there’s little likelihood that this bill would pass, Delegates Szeliga, Arian, McComas, and Reilly wasted taxpayer money advocating for it. Although Florida and Texas are currently receiving a lot of media attention because of their legislation, it is important that Marylanders remain vigilant in blocking efforts by lawmakers to marginalize members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

If you are interested in knowing more about efforts to challenge these types of legislation, consider the following:

- Become involved with the local chapter of Together We Will
- Donate to Free State Justice
- Contact the delegates above directly and let them know that you oppose HB 618 and HB 757.  
Email addresses: [lauren.arikan@house.state.md.us](mailto:lauren.arikan@house.state.md.us), [susan.mccomas@house.state.md.us](mailto:susan.mccomas@house.state.md.us),  
[teresa.reilly@house.state.md.us](mailto:teresa.reilly@house.state.md.us), [kathy.szeliga@house.state.md.us](mailto:kathy.szeliga@house.state.md.us)
- You can also contact the Ways and Means Committee chair, Del. Vanessa Atterbeary, to let them know that you oppose our delegates' efforts to undermine LGBTQIA+ people:  
[Vanessa.Atterbeary@house.state.md.us](mailto:Vanessa.Atterbeary@house.state.md.us)

### **About Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride**

Founded in 2019, Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride provides unwavering advocacy and support for LGBTQIA+ people, communities, and their families in Cecil and Harford Counties. For more information about the festival or our organization, please visit [www.ucbpride.com](http://www.ucbpride.com).

*-END-*