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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/14/21

### PFLAG SALISBURY, INC. ANNOUNCES LEGISLATIVE ENDORSEMENT

PFLAG Salisbury, Inc. endorses three bills being introduced in the 2021 legislative session. We call on our Maryland State Assembly Senators and Members of the House of Delegates to vote YES on each of the following bills:

**HB 130 Establishing A State Commission on LGBTQ Affairs.** This bill would establish the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, which would among other things publish an annual report to include recommendations on policies for LGBTQ adults and youth to end discriminatory practices in the State. Having a Commission of this nature would help ensure that the voice of LGBTQ+ Marylanders is heard at the highest level of state government, and that equality is advanced. HB 130 is scheduled for a hearing in the Maryland House of Delegates 1/14.

**HB 39 Action for Change of Name - Waiver of Publication.** This bill would require courts to waive the publication requirement on request, for any trans, agender, nonbinary, or gender expansive person seeking a name change. Requiring trans, agender, nonbinary, and gender expansive people who are requesting a name change to publicly announce intentions of the change (informally known as the "publication requirement") is a form of "outing" that violates people's privacy and puts them at increased risk of violence. Allowing people the option of waiving this requirement increases people's privacy and safety. HB 39 is scheduled for a hearing in the Maryland House of Delegates 1/15.

**HB155/SB0098 County Boards and Public and Nonpublic Prekindergarten Programs and Schools - Discrimination – Prohibition.** Similar to the Inclusive Schools Act from last year, HB155/SB0098 is a massive piece of legislation for LGBTQ youth in Maryland public schools as well as schools that receive public funding. This bill would prohibit a county board, public prekindergarten program or primary or secondary school, or nonpublic prekindergarten program or primary or secondary school that receives State funds from discriminating against a person, refusing enrollment of, expelling, or withholding privileges from any student or prospective student, or taking certain retaliatory actions on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender

identity, or disability; providing certain penalties; etc. HB155/SB0098 is scheduled for a hearing in the Maryland House of Delegates 1/27.

We urge all members and affiliates of PFLAG Salisbury, Inc. who reside in the State of Maryland to contact their state delegates and senators. State representatives can be located via the [online State of Maryland representative locator](#).

PFLAG is the largest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) ally organization in the nation. PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision by providing support for families, allies, and people who are LGBTQ; providing education about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ; and providing advocacy in the community to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ. Salisbury PFLAG meetings are open to the public. During the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings are held on the second Monday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00pm at the Ward Museum located on Schumaker Drive in Salisbury, Maryland.