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## NEWS STATEMENT

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### **SALISBURY PFLAG SUPPORTS DESIGNATING SINGLE OCCUPANCY BATHROOMS IN THE CITY OF SALISBURY AS GENDER NEUTRAL**

The Salisbury City Council is considering a piece of legislation to make all single use bathrooms have gender neutral signage. Salisbury PFLAG strongly supports this ordinance and applauds the Salisbury City Council for its commitment to inclusivity.

Gender neutral bathroom ordinances occur when a city, state, or municipality stipulates that all public single occupancy bathrooms be designated as non-gendered. The benefits of such ordinances is multi-faceted having a positive impact on multiple individuals and groups. First, gender inclusive bathrooms provide transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people access to a restroom without needing to be "gender policed". All too often, gender non-conforming individuals face serious safety and harassment risks using public restrooms and gender neutral bathroom options allow everyone to feel safer in public spaces.

Next, gender-inclusive bathrooms benefit gender-conforming people as well as they are helpful to families with children as well as to adults that require assistance from opposite sex parents or caregivers when using bathroom facilities. Further, single use bathrooms are crucial to the paruresis and parcopresis communities, with paruresis also known as "shy bladder syndrome" and parcopresis commonly referred to as "shy bowel syndrome". Pauresis and parcopresis are conditions in which a person is unable to use a restroom comfortably in the presence of others.

Finally, gender-inclusive bathrooms help to alleviate the long waits commonly associated with female restrooms, better known as potty parity. Also, they give business more options when facilities are out of order as well as save building space and energy usage.

As a result of the numerous benefits of ordinances that designate that single occupancy bathrooms be gender inclusive, these initiatives are both favorable for businesses and endorsed by the American Restroom Association. Salisbury PFLAG, is a chapter of PFLAG national and actively works with a number of other local, regional, and national LGBTQ+ advocacy groups. 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 is available to assist any business with adopting appropriate signage upon request.