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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **IN HONOR OF TRANSGENDER VISIBILITY WEEK, SALISBURY PFLAG AND TRANSLIANCE HOST A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE MODERATED BY SENATOR SARAH MCBRIDE**

In order to engender greater understanding and raise awareness of the transgender and gender non-conforming community, Salisbury PFLAG and Transliance have come together to sponsor a panel discussion to be moderated by Delaware State Senator Sarah McBride. The event coincides with Transgender Visibility Week and will be focused on the needs of, and issues faced by, the gender spectrum community.

Transgender Visibility/Awareness Week is March 24-31, 2021 culminating with Trans Day of Visibility on March 31st. This annual event serves as a global celebration of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals recognizing their accomplishments and contributions to society as well as providing as an opportunity to raise awareness of the urgent need to work to end the prevailing discrimination, lack of resources, and violence faced by the transgender community.

When Sarah McBride was sworn in as a Delaware Senator in January, she made history becoming the highest-ranking elected official who is openly transgender in the nation. An activist and author, she served as a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, worked for former Governor Jack Markell and the late Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden, and led a successful effort to pass a landmark non-discrimination law in Delaware. In 2016, McBride also made history at the Democratic National Convention as the first openly transgender person to speak at a major party convention. Senator McBride will be joined by a panel that includes Tina Jones, Hannah Simpson, Harper Howard, Christiana McBride, Mikey Shock, and Jeannie Neal.

Kathy Carpenter, a transgender activist and co-founder of Transliance, explains “Transliance is so grateful to be working with the Delaware Senate Chair of Health and Social Services, Senator McBride. We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from Salisbury PFLAG, who is giving a voice to the often silent “T” in LGBT. We welcome this opportunity to draw attention to the challenges facing transgender individuals in our community. Together we can make tomorrow different.”

The event is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and will be broadcast live on the Salisbury PFLAG Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SalisburyPFLAG/>. Sign language interpretation will be provided.

According to the Executive Director of Salisbury PFLAG, Mark DeLancey, “Salisbury PFLAG is elated to have this long-overdue discussion on this issue in particular. It is our hope that by bringing this issue to light we can better reach our community through understanding and move forward with solutions.”

Salisbury PFLAG was founded in 2015. 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; offering education about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ; and engaging in advocacy in the community to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ. Salisbury PFLAG is a chapter of PFLAG National, the largest non-profit LGBTQ ally organization in the nation.

Transliance is a non-profit founded in 2015 dedicated to raising awareness of, and cultivating community for, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals by helping people network, learn, grow, and come together socially in safe venues. Transliance maintains groups in Rehoboth, Salisbury and Easton and organizes meetings and activities in an inviting atmosphere geared towards transgender individuals and family and friends of transgender individuals.

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