

# BUILDING AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE MARYLAND WHERE EVERY PERSON CAN THRIVE

## BACKGROUND:

In Maryland and across the nation, LGBTQ+ individuals face adversity at higher levels than many other communities. This adversity is felt in all intersections of life including education, health care, housing, and criminal justice to name a few. To provide a brief snapshot, more than half of LGBTQ+ youth in Maryland report they have been harassed or assaulted in schools. Further, LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to experience depression and to attempt suicide. Members of this community are also more likely to experience housing instability, food insecurity, and are more likely to be represented in the foster care system. Maryland's LGBTQ+ seniors also face housing discrimination, harassment, and victimization at higher levels. LGBTQ+ Marylanders deserve a governor who will fight for their rights and create a state where every person can thrive.

## WES' EXPERIENCE:

Wes Moore and Aruna Miller care deeply about the LGBTQ+ community and will always fight to ensure Maryland is a state that is open and welcome to all, regardless of who you are or who you love. Wes was very involved in the repeal of the Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) legislation, which barred openly gay people from military service. Wes knows from his own personal military service the effect that DADT and other stigmatizing policies had on the LGBTQ+ population. As the CEO of one of the nation's largest nonprofits fighting poverty, the organization donated millions of dollars to organizations providing housing, food, education, and other support to LGBTQ+ youth. As governor and lieutenant governor, Wes and Aruna will continue to be champions for the LGBTQ+ community.

## WES' VISION:

With the commitment to better the wellbeing of Maryland's LGBTQ+ population, the Moore-Miller administration will:

- Support students who identify as LGBTQ+ by fully implementing the newly passed Inclusive Schools Act, ensuring Maryland schools adopt LGBTQ+ affirming policies, create partnerships with organizations working with LGBTQ+ youth to provide additional resources needed to support our students, and broaden access to trauma-informed mental health care in schools.
- Support the passage of the Trans Health Equity Act to ensure transgender Marylanders can receive the gender-affirming health care they need.
- Abolish Maryland's outdated laws that criminalize HIV, which disproportionately affect and stigmatize the LGBTQ+ community.
- Work with the LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce and community to build and publish a list of LGBTQ+ businesses so state agencies can more easily identify and contract with them.
- Ensure the LGBTQ+ community has a seat at the table and voice in the discussion, and work to implement the recommendations of Maryland's newly created LGBTQ+ Commission.
- Stand as a brick wall against any anti-LGBTQ+ legislation or policies and welcome families and businesses from states enacting homophobic and transphobic social agendas, demonstrating that Maryland remains open and inclusive for all.



**“THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE MARYLAND TRULY INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING** is to ensure we fiercely support and advance the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, especially at a time where this community remains under attack. The Moore-Miller administration will always be champions for LGBTQ+ Marylanders, protecting their rights and ensuring they have access to the tools and resources they need at all intersections of life to prosper and thrive.” — **Wes Moore & Aruna Miller**

