

DECLINE TO SIGN!

DON'T PERPETUATE THE FEAR: DECLINE TO SIGN

What's this all about?

In November, the Montgomery County Council unanimously passed a law prohibiting discrimination against transgender people. This was not a groundbreaking move – **13 states** and more than **100 local jurisdictions** already have such a law, including Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. Anti-LGBT activists are gathering signatures to try stop this important law from going into effect. They want to bring your transgender neighbors' rights for a public referendum and prevent them from having any legal anti-discrimination protections.

Why should I decline to sign?

Declining to sign simply means you support common sense legal protections in Montgomery County for transgender individuals. Transgender people are *not* included in federal or state anti-discrimination laws, making this law even more important to our transgender residents in Montgomery County. The Washington Transgender Needs Assessment survey estimates that 42% of transgender people in the DC Metro Area are unemployed; 31% have incomes of less than \$10,000/year; and 19% do not have their own living space. Violence against transgender persons is also on the rise.

Does this mean men will be able to use the women's restroom?

No! This law prohibits discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. It prevents basic and blatant discrimination against transgender individuals– an employer from firing someone for having gender reassignment surgery, restaurant refusing to serve a man who appears too effeminate or a woman who appears too masculine.

From Washington Post:

"County Executive Isaiah Leggett (D), who signed the measure into law, has taken issue with the group's assertion. The legislation, he said, would not apply to such private facilities as showers or locker rooms. "If you are in disagreement with this, that is your right," he wrote in an e-mail to the group's president, Ruth Jacobs. "However, you have an obligation to state the facts." The county's Human Rights Commission compliance director has said the law allows the owner of a health club or swim club to segregate facilities based on biological sex.