

Katie Curran O'Malley

DEMOCRAT FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Plan to Advance
LGBTQ+ Rights**

Executive Summary

Over the course of the last 20 years there have been extraordinary advancements in the field of LGBTQ+ rights. However, these advancements have neither been sufficient nor are fully secured. The Movement Advancement Project, an organization that analyzes the status of LGBTQ+ equality in every state, ranks Maryland only 17th in the country for LGBTQ+ equality. Earlier this month, the Carroll County School Board banned LGBTQ Pride flags from school property. And with the Supreme Court poised to withdraw constitutional protections for reproductive rights, we cannot take the constitutional protection of same-sex marriage for granted.

Maryland needs an Attorney General that is a tenacious, relentless, and inspired advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. Throughout my career, I have been an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, and my support of same-sex marriage's passage in 2011 is one of my proudest moments. I was proud to call out the moral cowardice then, and I will be proud to rebuke intolerance towards the LGBTQ+ as Attorney General. If elected, I will:

- **Fully Enforce the Inclusive Schools Act**
- **Support Trans Rights**
- **Joining Other Attorneys General to Advocate for LGBTQ+ Rights in Federal Court**
- **Repeal Antiquated HIV Criminalization Laws**
- **Working Closely with LGBTQ+ Community**

Fully Enforce the Inclusive Schools Act

This past April, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Inclusive Schools Act, outlawing discrimination based on race, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability in Maryland schools. This law is an important move against the high amounts of bullying we see of LGBTQ+ youth. Nearly 2/3 of Maryland LGBTQ students report feeling unsafe in their schools. And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that trans students are far more likely to experience physical violence, sexual violence, physical dating violence, bullying, and or other harm.

I will use the full powers of my office to enforce these laws. Children need schools to be places of education and acceptance. It is not possible to learn under the threat of pervasive violence, especially when you are a child. As Attorney General and as a mother, I will work to protect our children from all forms of discrimination.

Support Trans Rights

Maryland continues to progress in terms of trans rights, but significant health care and legal difficulties remain. Thousands of trans Marylanders face a lack of access to inclusive healthcare services and daily discrimination. And across the country we are seeing a wave of anti-LGBTQ+ laws that single out transgender Americans to prohibit them from getting the support and medical attention they need. As Attorney general, I will be a bulwark against these laws. I will lobby the General Assembly to pass the Transgender Health Equity Act, which will grant greater health care protections to the transgender community and provide Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming treatment. No one should be denied access to healthcare because of their gender identity. And in coordination with this treatment, I will work with the General Assembly and relevant state agencies to streamline the process for name and gender change on legal documentation.

Joining Other Attorneys General to Advocate for LGBTQ+ Rights in Federal Court

I will draw on my long record of courtroom advocacy to challenge homophobic, transphobic, or other discriminatory laws in federal courts. I will order attorneys in the Attorney General's office to file amicus briefs at the Supreme Court and Circuit Courts of Appeal that outline the unconstitutionality of laws that target and infringe on the personal liberty of the LGBTQ+ community.

Repeal Antiquated HIV Criminalization Laws

Like many states, Maryland law often treats HIV-positive status as a predicate for an array of crimes under the law. These laws reflect a different, antiquated perspective of HIV. They have no place in a contemporary Maryland, where we demand that science and moral justice dictate the law, not bigotry. As Attorney General I will lead the movement to repeal these laws.

Working Closely with LGBTQ+ Community

If elected, I am committed to being the most accessible Attorney General possible. I commit to quarterly meetings with the LGBTQ+ community to ensure that my office is responding to on-the-ground realities for all Marylanders. To this end, I also commit to having LGBTQ+ leadership in our office and to be in constant contact with LGBTQ+ leaders across the state. Representation matters and I will ensure that LGBTQ+ have a strong voice in the legal affairs of our State.