



PRESS RELEASE

Coalition of Attorneys General Urge HHS, Department of Education to Abandon Efforts to Adopt Restrictive and Discriminatory Federal Definition of “Sex”

BALTIMORE, MD (November 19, 2018) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined a coalition of 20 state attorneys general [urging](#) the Trump administration to abandon efforts to adopt a definition of “sex” that would exclude transgender and gender nonconforming individuals from the protections of federal civil rights laws.

Last month, it was reported that key officials in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services were considering adopting a definition of sex as an immutable, binary biological trait determined by or before birth - and that the Department was urging other agencies, including the Department of Education, to do the same. Such a restrictive definition would effectively exclude transgender and gender nonconforming individuals from the protections of critical federal civil rights laws, including Title IX and the nondiscrimination provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

“Transgendered and gender non-conforming members of our communities are entitled to legal protection,” said Attorney General Frosh. “Our federal government should promote the values of nondiscrimination and inclusiveness, not create laws and regulations that subject people to discrimination and harassment.”

In the letter to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar and U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, the attorneys general agree that, “despite clear evidence of the serious harms that discrimination continues to inflict on the transgender community, the administration seems intent not only on rolling back existing federal civil rights protections for this vulnerable population, but also denying transgender people even basic recognition.”

In addition to Maryland, the letter was joined by attorneys general from California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.