

CITY OF BALTIMORE

Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Mayor



Mayor's Office of Employment Development

Jason Perkins-Cohen
Director
417 E, Fayette Street, Suite 468
Baltimore, MD 21202

September 14, 2020

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Labor Committee
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holiday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Council Bill #20-0199R, entitled, "Investigative Hearing - Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore"

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) is herein reporting on City Council Bill #20-0199R, entitled, "Investigative Hearing - Well-being of the Transgender Community in Baltimore." The purpose of this bill is to call on several City and State agencies to "update the Council on services provided to and the general well-being of the transgender community in Baltimore."

MOED is responsible for management and oversight of federal, state and City funds allocated for workforce and for designing and implementing strategies that improve outcomes for job seekers and employers.

At MOED we understand the unique barriers that transgender people face when seeking employment. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, more than 1 in 4 transgender people have lost a job due to bias and three-fourths have faced some type of discrimination at work. Only very recently, on June 15, 2020, did the Supreme Court clarify that federal law prohibits anti-transgender discrimination in employment, therefore there are still many challenges to overcome.

MOED is an agency that is deeply committed to serving individuals whom have barriers to employment. We are an agency that works with any person regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or gender.

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We remain committed to respecting preferred gender pronouns and continue to educate staff with training opportunities through organizations such as ADR Advantage and the LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

MOED will continue to seek opportunities to broaden our network of partners that work with transgender individuals and provide services to any person that may seek or assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Perkins-Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jason Perkins-Cohen
Director