



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 21-0069R, 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 21-0069R, 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.

Subsequent to the last hearing, MOED has undertaken efforts to better serve the transgender community and increase agency cultural competency. MOED leadership staff participated in training with former City Hall LGBTQ liaison Jabari Lyles. We also met with leadership from advocacy groups to provide an in-depth view of MOED services. Our Employer Services team is also providing weekly job posting newsletter to City Hall liaison Scott Davis and also have recently included representatives from Safe Haven and Hearts and Ears. MOED has also connected with Hearts and Ears regarding an Opioid grant.

Recently, MOED has announced the expansion of the Community Job Hubs and strongly encourages LGBTQ advocacy organizations to apply to serve as a hub location for workforce services. Additionally, MOED is in the process of hiring mobile staff that can be scheduled to be available on location for recruitment, events and to offer the range of MOED services.

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 cursive script that reads "Jason Perkins-Cohen".

Jason Perkins-Cohen  
Executive Director  
Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Employment Development