

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

On behalf of The Residents of Anne Arundel County, Maryland

WHEREAS, On April 4, 2025, students across the country will participate in GLSEN's National Day of (No) Silence, a student-led demonstration where participants protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination on LGBTQ+ people in schools; and

WHEREAS, Every April since the mid-1990s when created, students and allies would protest discrimination by remaining silent for an entire school day before ending with Breaking the Silence rallies; and

WHEREAS, In 2024, the annual demonstration was switched to Day of (NO) Silence, in opposition to the current attempted erasure of LGBTQ+ people; and

WHEREAS, 82% of LGBTQ+ students have reported experiencing harassment or bullying in their school, and more than 30% of LGBTQ+ students have reported missing school because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that our LGBTQ+ students are able to learn and socialize in a safe environment, and access the support they need to to live freely and safely as who they are is critical to our mission of making Anne Arundel County The Best Place - For All.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEUART L. PITTMAN, County Executive, do hereby proclaim April 4, 2025, as GLSEN's Day of (No) Silence in Anne Arundel County and call upon all of our residents to recognize and commend its observance, and show support for our LGBTQ+ youth. Given Under My hand and the Great Seal of Anne Arundel County this 4th Day of April in the Year of the Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

STEUART L. PITTMAN

County Executive

April 4, 2025