



**Testimony on B22-840,
“LGBTQ Health Data Collection Amendment Act of 2018”**

Submitted to the Committee on Education
October 16, 2018

Chairman Grosso and Committee members, GLAA endorses B22-840, the “LGBTQ Health Data Collection Amendment Act of 2018.” We thank the members of the D.C. Council for unanimously introducing it in June of this year.

The bill amends the Department of Health Functions Clarifications Act of 2001 to require the Department of Health (DC Health) to collect information on the sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression of respondents to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). It also amends the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000 to require the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to collect information on the sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression of respondents to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS).

For some years, there appeared to be confusion as to where the primary responsibility lay for issuing an annual report on the health of the District's LGBTQ community, despite it being evident that the Office of LGBTQ Affairs (as it has been renamed) lacked the resources and expertise to lead the effort. This bill makes it clear that, pursuant to section 4(b)(10) of The Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs Act of 2006, in coordination with the Office of GLBT Affairs, the Department of Health shall annually publish a comprehensive report on the health of the District's LGBTQ community on its website using data collected from BRFSS.

This is in keeping with an agreement between DC Health and LGBTQ Affairs that, once the data were collected and analyzed by DC Health, LGBTQ Affairs would assist DC Health to convene knowledgeable LGBTQ community representatives to develop policy recommendations to be included in the final report. The LGBTQ Data Workgroup was duly convened, and included participation by former GLAA President Guillaume Bagal. We understand that its recommendations are being taken to heart and adhered to, and that an LGBTQ health report based on newly gathered data is expected in early 2020.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Elaine Strang
President