

**Maryland Citizens for a Responsible Government**



**Citizens for a Responsible Government**

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Assalaamu Alaikum:

Please read this critical information regarding the impact the new 'gender identity' bill will have on your Muslim Community. Last month, County Executive Ike Leggett signed into law Bill 23-07. Bill 23-07 extends extensive protections to transgender individuals (i.e., biological males who dress and behave as women). Unlike the Federal EDNA Gender Identity bill, there is no specific exemption for religious organizations. Our Muslim Masjids, organizations and Islamic school's ability to refuse employment to transvestites and cross-dressers is unclear.

According to Bill 23-07, "*Gender identity means an individual's actual or perceived gender, including a person's gender-related appearance, expression, image, identity, or behavior, whether or not those gender-related characteristics differ from the characteristics customarily associated with the person's assigned sex at birth.*" Montgomery County students are taught Gender Identity according to this definition. Allah tells us in the Glorious Holy Quran Sura 4 An-Nisaa (Women) Ayat 1 "O mankind! Reverence your Guardian-Lord, who created you from a single person, created, of like nature, His mate, and from them twain scattered (like seeds) countless **men and women**; - reverence Allah, through whom ye demand your mutual (rights), and (reverence) the wombs (That bore you): for Allah ever watches over you." **Our gender is determined before birth as it is clearly explained in the Holy Hadith (Sahih Bukhari):** Narrated Anas bin Malik: The Prophet said, "At every womb Allah appoints an angel who says, 'O Lord! A drop of semen, O Lord! A clot. O Lord! A little lump of flesh.'" Then if Allah wishes (to complete) its creation, the angel asks, (O Lord!) Will it be a **male or female**, a wretched or a blessed, and how much will his provision be? And what will his age be?' **So all that is written while the child is still in the mother's womb.**"

The bill contains no exemption for restrooms, showers, or locker rooms. This raises concerns about the privacy and safety issues for women and children. We have been disappointed in the response of the County Executive and County Council to such concerns. The sponsors of this bill have already hinted towards using Montgomery County as a pilot program towards expanding this practice across the state and possibility the country. It is our responsibility to protect our women and children. The women and children of Montgomery County should be given a voice when considering legislation that potentially puts them at risk. We are now working hard to bring this bill to a referendum. Only with your help can we collect the signatures of over 25,000 Montgomery County registered voters by February 16<sup>th</sup>.

In closing, I remind myself (first), you and every Muslim in Montgomery County Maryland, of Allah's command to us in Sura 3:104 "Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, **enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong.** They are the ones to attain felicity.."

Jazaka Allahu Khayrun

Br.K. Jamil Sowe

[Jamil.sowe@notmyshower.net](mailto:Jamil.sowe@notmyshower.net)