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To the Allegheny County Board of Health:

As the State Representative for Pennsylvania’s 23<sup>rd</sup> District, I hear from many responsible businesses owners and leaders of organizations who aspire to create a safe and inclusive environment for all of the diverse populations that live, work and socialize in Allegheny County.

Neither the current 2017 Allegheny County Health Department plumbing code, nor the recently proposed regulation changes, contain a design option that would allow the use of toilet facilities by all persons, regardless of gender.

The 2021 International Plumbing Code provides such a design option for those organizations that choose to create a more inclusive restroom environment.

In order to support Allegheny County’s legacy of inclusion and protection of vulnerable communities, I ask that the Allegheny Health Department incorporate into the proposed regulation changes from the 2021 IPC sections 403.1.1, 403.1.2 and 403.2, which provide a design option for toilet facilities that would be available to people for whom “Men’s” and “Women’s” restrooms do not feel safe or comfortable.

Adopting these modest changes immediately would benefit Pittsburgh’s gender-diverse population, along with parents of small children and many disabled people and their caregivers. Non-binary people in this country face untold dangers in public spaces, as targets of hate violence and intimidation. That is reason enough to allow businesses to create a safe and private space for this population.

But the reality is that most people would benefit from a non-gender bathroom at some point in their lives. Any time an individual needs private assistance from someone who identifies as a different gender than themselves, a well-placed all-gender restroom is a blessing. How many care takers are afraid to take the adults and children they care for more than a few miles from their homes? How many transgender, elderly and disabled people see their access to the world shrink as they get more hesitant to use public restroom facilities that cannot fully accommodate them?

The county rightly bars discrimination against individuals on the basis of their gender identity or expression, but then also bars the owners of buildings – potentially, their employers -- from

accommodating them. It's time for Allegheny County to send a consistent message: that our community welcomes and accommodates everyone, because diversity benefits all of us.

If my office can be helpful in making this change, please call us at 412-244-1774.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Frankel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Dan Frankel