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Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB0039 Action for Change of Name - Waiver of Publication Requirement Favorable Testimony

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support for HB0039 Action for Change of Name - Waiver of Publication Requirement. The publication requirement is an antiquated and unnecessary rule that places an undue burden on transgender and non-binary people who are seeking legal name changes. This requirement creates both safety and privacy concerns for trans and non-binary individuals, effectively forcibly outing them to the general public and putting them at risk of targeted violence and discrimination. Allowing for the wavier of the name change publication requirement helps protect Marylanders from violence and discrimination on the basis of gender identity and enables trans and non-binary people to change their names with dignity and privacy by removing one of the systemic barriers that this marginalized group faces.

Sincerely,
Nicolina Fournier