

I do not wish to take too much time from this honorable assembly, so I will keep my remarks brief. My name (though it is not legally recognized as such) is Christianne- I signed up to provide testimony under my deadname since I was afraid that my testimony would not be accepted if I did not submit it with my legal name. I am a transgender woman living in Carroll County. I support this bill due to the many trans brothers and sisters throughout the state who are closeted to some people and have much to lose if this is made public to family members who may be hostile to their identity. Having one's name change published in the newspaper, especially when the LGBTQ+ panic defense is still legal (for the moment) in Maryland, shows flagrant disregard for the lives and well-being of transgender people. Yet the danger isn't confined to physical danger, as publicizing the name change can cause mental and emotional harm as well. Would Myliah Mullen still be alive if our name change process wasn't so intimidating and invalidating? Perhaps she would.

I urge the entire General Assembly, but especially Delegates Krebs, Rose, and Shoemaker to vote for this bill. Even if you may find transgender folks against your religion, I think we can all agree that requiring a newspaper notice is a waste of expenses and ink for the newspaper of general circulation and merely an extra bit of red tape that further bloats our bureaucracy for no good reason. Fiscal and regulatory conservatism demands that this statute be changed, and this is an issue upon which conservatives and liberals can agree.