



TESTIMONY FOR HB0370
Certificates of Birth – Issuance of New Certificates – Sex Designation

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Belcastro

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0370 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members work hard to support the members of our community that need extra voices to speak for them. We understand that not everyone fits into a tidy definition of male and female, and that our society is entirely geared to those designations.

This bill would allow for individuals who do not fit into those tidy definitions to get their birth certificate amended to allow for a different designation of non-binary, other, or unspecified. Furthermore, the bill allows for the change of a parent's name, and ensures that these changes will not result in the new birth certificate saying that it was amended.

We believe flexibility should exist in our institutions to match the flexibility in which people define themselves.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.