

SB 0314 – Favorable – Finance and Judicial Proceedings Committees

Lisa Harbin
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District 40

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT OF SB0314** - Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

Hearing Date: February 5, 2025

TO: Chair Beidle, Chair Smith, and members of the Senate Finance & Judicial Proceedings Committees

Senators Beidle and Smith and members of the Finance and Judicial Proceedings Committees, my name is Lisa Harbin and I live in Baltimore, Maryland. I am writing to support SB 0314, the Birth Certificate Modernization Act.

In light of the current U.S. administration's attacks on trans and non-binary individuals, we in Maryland must do whatever we can to protect the rights of everyone in our state. SB 0314 will allow Maryland parents who have changed their name or gender to update their child's birth certificate to reflect those changes. Currently, if a parent changes their name or gender on their driver's license or passport, they can't update their child's birth certificate to match. Discrepancies in a parent's identity in legal documents can impact their parental rights if they are called into question (for example, during divorce proceedings).

I have family members and beloved friends who are trans and non-binary, and fortunately, several of them are also Maryland citizens. You can fortify my loved ones' rights and the rights of all Marylanders by passing SB 0314.

Please support SB 0314 and help keep Maryland families secure.

Sincerely,

Lisa Harbin