



**TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB0314:
Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards –
Sex Designation 3 (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)
FAVORABLE**

TO: Senator William C. Smith, Chair, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair and the members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee; and Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair, Senator Antonion Hayes, Vice Chair and the members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 5, 2025

This bill allows transgender people to change to modify their birth certificates to reflect their gender identity without an affidavit from a healthcare provider. Thus, this bill promotes accurate identity documentation for transgender individuals, reducing discrimination and harassment, facilitating access to services, upholding personal autonomy, and recognizing the reality of gender identity as distinct from sex assigned at birth. This would allow a birth certificate to align with a person's lived gender which is crucial for their well-being and legal standing in society.

Amending the sex designation on a birth certificate may be an extremely important step for a transgender person, to accurately reflect on this legal document the sex with which the individual identifies, and as required proof of sex to obtain other identity and legal documents.

We respectfully request a favorable report.