



M Pease, M.S.
(they/them)
Research Director
info@transmaryland.org

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The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony of Trans Maryland – Research Unit

IN SUPPORT OF

Senate Bill #314: Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation
(Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Trans Maryland is a multi-racial, multi-gender community power building organization for Maryland's trans community. Trans Maryland runs the state's largest name and gender marker change program and, since 2021, has collaborated with a team of researchers supported by funding from the University System of Maryland Wilson H. Elkins Professorship on a state-wide assessment of trans community experiences. Our new [report on identity documents](#) found:

- Only **14.4%** of trans Marylanders had their correct gender on all IDs
- Individuals making **\$35,000 or less** annually and individuals with **disabilities** were significantly less likely to have their gender reflected on their ID documents
- With Maryland driver's licenses and state IDs, respondents with X gender markers **felt significantly safer** after changing their marker to X

Our data highlight the importance of making accurate identity documents with X gender markers accessible to trans people in Maryland. Key provisions of the Birth Certificate Modernization Act include replacing the requirement for a medical provider letter with an individual's statement under penalty of perjury and clarifying that the Department of Health can issue birth certificates with X sex designations. It also ensures that parents of trans youth and parents who have changed their name for any reason can obtain accurate birth certificates for their children. This streamlines processes and removes unnecessary barriers faced by trans people in Maryland, particularly those with lower incomes and with disabilities, to obtaining accurate documentation.

Accurate identity documents are critical for so many areas of everyday life. These simple changes will help ensure more trans Marylanders can access documents that match who they are, with measurable impacts on safety and wellbeing for communities across our State. For these reasons, we urge a **favorable report** on SB 314.