



BILL NUMBER: SB 314

TITLE: Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

COMMITTEE: Finance

HEARING DATE: February 5, 2025

POSITION: Favorable

Reproductive Justice Maryland supports Senate Bill 314 in keeping with our mission to champion reproductive justice as a fundamental human right for all Marylanders. We believe that everyone deserves the freedom to make informed decisions about their bodies, health, and futures, free from discrimination, coercion, and barriers. This includes the freedom to live without regard to oppressive and harmful notions of gender.

Throughout history, human societies have had differing notions about the necessary attributes and roles ascribed to individuals based on whether they appear to be male or female. There have always been individuals who did not experience fitting neatly into the category they were assigned at birth. While they have always been with us, mainstream American society has only recently begun to recognize their existence, much less to acknowledge the harm of traditional ideas of gender and how these ideas constrain the lives of all people.

In this moment in particular, Senate Bill 360 represents an opportunity for Maryland to stand firm against the federal government's all-out assault on transgender rights. Since the first day of the new presidential administration, we have seen the federal government attempt to erase the very existence of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. All references to transgender and gender non-conforming people have systemically been scrubbed from federal programs at every government agency. This has been done to communicate the administration's message of intolerance to transgender and gender non-conforming Americans. We can and must take the opposite stance in Maryland.

Senate Bill 314 will not solve the problem of the federal administration's outright hostility towards transgender and gender non-conforming people, but it is a meaningful step that Maryland can take in this crucial moment. Something as simple as having one's driver's license or identification card reflect their true identity can be a lifeline in these dark times for transgender and gender non-conforming Marylanders. Reproductive Justice Maryland is proud to support Senate Bill 314 and urges a favorable report.