



# Indivisible: Central Maryland

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## TESTIMONY FOR SB0314

### Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards – Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

**Bill Sponsor:** Senators Waldstreicher and Lam

**Committee:** Finance

**Organization Submitting:** Indivisible Central Maryland

**Person Submitting:** Liz Enagonio and Susan Radke, lead advocates

**Position:** FAVORABLE

Our names are Liz Enagonio and Susan Radke, lead advocates for Indivisible Central Maryland, a grassroots organization of constituents dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values. Indivisible Central Maryland **strongly supports SB0314**.

In the current global environment, with its need for accuracy and consistency in identifying individuals in a range of areas, including financial, travel, and government interactions, the need for a birth certificate that matches the current person is sorely needed. In an era in which changing one's sex/gender is available and reasonably common, a birth certificate of the wrong gender creates barriers to consistent identification for individuals who have undergone a gender reassignment. As a now-retired hospital provider, one of us (Enagonio) witnessed this when medical records based on a no-longer accurate birth certificate conflicted with the name and gender of a patient. As a result, records became splintered, patients were wrongly identified, which could lead to grave healthcare errors, and patients were not accorded the respect of their present identity. For consistent identification in the modern world, **Indivisible Central Maryland STRONGLY supports SB0314, and recommends a FAVORABLE vote in committee.** Thank you.