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BILL: Senate Bill 314 - Birth Certificate Modernization Act

DATE: February 3, 2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

COMMITTEE: Finance

CONTACT: Christine Feldmann | Annapolis Pride Board Member

Annapolis Pride's mission is to advocate for, empower, and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in Anne Arundel County to live fully and authentically. Our vision is a safe, equitable, and anti-racist community where people of all identities thrive. As such, the Board of Directors of Annapolis Pride **supports** Senate Bill 314, the Birth Certificate Modernization Act.

For transgender and nonbinary individuals, having identification that accurately reflects their identity is essential for safety, dignity and full participation in society. A birth certificate is a fundamental document used in many aspects of life, from obtaining employment and housing to accessing healthcare and traveling. When this document is inaccurate, it creates unnecessary barriers, exposing individuals to discrimination, harassment and even violence.

Many states have already adopted policies that allow for changes to birth certificates without burdensome legal hurdles. These policies acknowledge the lived realities of transgender and nonbinary people and recognize their right to self-determination.

This bill is not just about paperwork—it is about affirming the dignity of every person. It recognizes that every individual deserves to be seen, respected and protected under the law. By passing this bill, Maryland can take an important step toward equity and inclusion, ensuring that transgender and nonbinary individuals are treated with the same respect and recognition as everyone else.

The new federal administration has sent a clear message that trans and non binary Americans won't be protected or even recognized nationally. Maryland has an opportunity to set itself apart as a welcoming state with the passage of this bill.

Accordingly, Annapolis Pride respectfully requests a **favorable** committee report on Senate Bill 314..