

Senate Bill 314 (SB314): Birth Certificate Modernization Act written testimony

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TESTIMONY Favorable: **Senate Bill 314 (SB314): Birth Certificate Modernization Act**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0314 - Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

Date of Hearing: Wednesday 2/5, 2p

TO: Chair Beidle, Chair Smith, and members of the Senate Finance & Judicial Proceedings Committees

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer Kreger, resident of Baltimore City, Maryland, and I am writing in support of SB314, Birth Certificate Modernization Act.

As a member of this community, I stand in solidarity with friends, families and loved ones who are directly impacted by the current barriers to updating birth certificates for transgender and non-binary individuals. Unfortunately for trans people, outdated birth certificate policies create unnecessary hardships, and this legislation would help to remove barriers and ensure that everyone can have accurate documentation to reflect who they are. The proposed Birth Certificate Modernization Act would streamline procedures for amending sex on birth certificates, licenses and IDs, and introducing a gender-neutral designation option. We want to support our transgender community and ease the administrative burden with uniformed agencies.

I have seen firsthand the challenges faced by community members who identify as transgender. They often face emotional and logistical hurdles when navigating a system that refuses to recognize their identity. For many, an accurate birth certificate is a fundamental step toward safety and well-being.

SB314 is a matter of public health and safety. By making it easier for transgender people to update their documents, we can reduce the risk of discrimination, foster a more inclusive environment, and contribute to the overall mental and physical well-being of trans individuals.

I ask you to support the SB314 lifesaving legislation as a crucial step toward making Maryland a safer and more equitable place for all Marylanders.

Sincerely,

Jennifer