



Testimony on SB314
Birth Certificate Modernization Act
Position: Favorable

To Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

My name is Brige Dumais, and I am the Political Coordinator of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We represent over 10,000 members in Maryland/DC. Our union represents members who work workers at Federally Qualified Health Centers that serve the LGBTQ+ community, and members and staff who are LGBTQ+. We urge a **favorable** report on SB314: Birth Certificate Modernization Act to clarify that an X marker is permitted on Maryland birth certificates.

Under current policy, physicians must write and sign gender marker change forms. **Enacting SB314 will reduce administrative duties on healthcare providers**, allowing them to spend more time providing high quality healthcare to their patients. Maryland is experiencing a critical short staffing crisis in healthcare. **Decreasing administrative tasks for healthcare workers wherever possible is essential for mitigating the high rates of burnout caused by chronic understaffing.**

Transgender people often face a lot of barriers when it comes to accessing healthcare, including but not limited to challenges in using various systems like patient portal and/or attending medical or mental health appointments.

When this bill is enacted, any person who both lives in Maryland and was born in Maryland will not require medical or any other documentation for a gender marker change. This improves quality of life for transgender people and removes administrative tasks on overburdened healthcare providers. We urge a **favorable** report on this bill. Thank you.

In Unity,

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