

SB 314 SUPPORT

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 314
Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation
(Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

February 3, 2025

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

Members of the Finance and Judicial Proceedings Committees, I am a lifelong resident of Montgomery County, Maryland and I am writing to support the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (SB 314). This bill should be uncontroversial in that it is simply about making sure important government documentation can be updated for accuracy. It provides clarity and certainty to trans individuals and their family members on how to ensure birth certificates accurately reflect the individuals involved.

My sibling, who is transgender nonbinary, struggled to update their child's birth certificate to accurately reflect their name and gender as the parent. In other words, it was a challenge to figure out the process to update government-issued documentation so that my sibling could prove that they were their child's parent, despite the fact that they physically birthed their child. There is no reason for this to be a complicated or confusing process, and state identification documents should be accurate.

This bill will ensure that individuals like my sibling can update important documentation with less confusion. There is no good reason why trans individuals should not have the same access and ease of access to government resources, including updating state-issued identifying documents, that everyone else does.

I urge you to support SB 314 to help ensure all Marylanders have the same access to accurate government-issued documentation.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Sweeney