

HB 1368 SUPPORT

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

House Committee on Health and Government Operations

Friday, February 21, 2025 at 2:00pm

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Lammot du Pont. I live in Baltimore City with my spouse and our four-year-old son. **I am in support of House Bill 1368.**

All Marylanders should have access to accurate, government-issued identification documents that are used in countless financial, health care, benefits, and other transactions on a daily basis. The current process makes it difficult, if not impossible, for individuals to correct and/or update important information regarding their name and gender identification. Without clear guidance, accessing core government services like accurate identification documents will be left to individual staff discretion and create confusion and delays for applicants trying to navigate the process.

I have heard the argument that a birth certificate should represent what was “true” at the time of birth. But a birth certificate is not simply a historical record – it is a document that must be used to prove our identities, citizenship, and parentage. It is a nightmare to navigate what should be routine transactions, like verifying eligibility for employment or enrolling one’s child in school, when these most basic identification documents do not match.

The Maryland General Assembly should pass House Bill 1368 to clarify the expectations regarding updating birth certificates to accurately reflect a parent’s legal name change and gender identification. Transgender Marylanders and their families deserve the same access to accurate, government-issued identification as every Marylander.