



Testimony of American Association of University Women of Maryland

to the

Maryland General Assembly

House of Delegates Health and Government Operations Committee

in support of

House Bill 1368: Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards – Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

February 19, 2025

Submitted by Roxann King, co-Vice President, Public Policy, AAUW Maryland
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The American Association of University Women Maryland (AAUW Maryland) strongly supports 2025 HB 905. Founded in 1881, AAUW's approximately 170,000 members and 1,000 branches nationwide are leaders in gender equity research, advocacy, and education. In Maryland, our members and supporters, and college and university partners are strong advocates for laws that promote the well-being of women and families.

In a discussion of this bill, I learned that Maryland still requires for the mother's and father's information on a birth certificate. At a time when Maryland is supportive of a variety of parenting structures, it is time to identify the parents as Parent and Parent, without regard to the sex of the parents.

The Maryland ID and the U.S. passport have updated their documents to be more inclusive. Currently there is no official process for changing the name or gender marker on your own birth certificate or your child's birth certificate. Sex designation is limited to male or female and requires a physician to change it. Having all three of these documents agree avoids discrimination in common activities like enrolling a child in school or opening a bank account. Despite federal efforts to erase trans and non-binary identification, Maryland is a leader in protecting the LGBTQ+ community. This is a small fix that would mean a lot to those of us who risk danger and violence when identified while travelling or even in our own communities.

AAUW MD urges that you provide a favorable report on House Bill 1368, Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards – Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act).