



LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Bill: **HB1368/SB0314 Birth Certificate Modernization Act**

Organization: PFLAG Salisbury Inc., PO Box 5107, Salisbury Maryland 21802

Submitted by: Nicole Hollywood, Board Member

Position: **FAVORABLE**

SALISBURY PFLAG SUPPORTS BIRTH CERTIFICATE MODERNIZATION

I am submitting this testimony in FAVOR of the Birth Certificate Modernization Act on behalf of PFLAG Salisbury, the Salisbury, Maryland Chapter of PFLAG National. This bill would remove burdens faced by transgender, nonbinary, and intersex individuals in Maryland can acquire a new certificate of birth due to the change of a sex designation of an individual; establishing requirements and a prohibition related to the making of new certificates of birth; and altering the options for indicating an individual's sex designation on a license, identification card, or moped operator's permit issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration.

Gender identity is a person's conception of being male, female, both, or neither, which may or may not be the same as what their sex was assigned at birth with 5.1% of adults under 30 identify as transgender or nonbinary.

Accurate and consistent gender markers on identity documents help individuals identifying under the transgender umbrella gain access to public spaces and resources, as well as dramatically reduces the risk that they will face violence, discrimination, or harassment.

The bill under consideration will streamline processes and remove unnecessary and burdensome requirements, such as proof of surgery or other medical interventions, that many individuals cannot access or do not want. Further, these actions are consistent with the recommendations of major medical, advocacy, and legal organizations.

This bill will also help transgender parents prove they are related to their own children after they have been granted an order of legal name change through the Maryland Courts and ease the administrative burden of accessing accurate documents for the transgender community, particularly low income transgender people.