Health and Government Operations Committee House Bill 1368 FAVORABLE

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee;

One Pasadena: Building a Safe and Inclusive Community is a group of people who are dedicated to countering bigotry in Pasadena, Maryland. We, the Steering Committee of One Pasadena, ask that you vote in favor of House Bill 1368, the Birth Certificate Modernization Act.

We are worried about our transgender family, friends, and neighbors. It's already very difficult to be openly transgender in Pasadena, where many community members have harassed, threatened, and even physically attacked trans people (including students.) We ask that you make things just a little bit easier for the members of our community who are just trying to live their authentic selves.

Not everyone has a stable living environment, much less enough money to jump through the hoops required by medical personnel - if they can find transportation to appointments in the first place. With insurance often tied to parents who far too often reject their Queer children in our area, and now with the government threatening to block medical coverage for gender-affirming are, costs would have to be paid out-of-pocket for many.

Please protect our transgender Marylanders to the best of your ability this session. Voting in favor of House Bill 1368 is one step towards doing so. Thank you.

Sincerely, The One Pasadena Steering Committee Pasadena, MD