



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Support- HB 1368

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

TO: Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee.
FROM: Kari Alperovitz-Bichell, MD, MPH
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland Health Care
DATE: February 21, 2025

My name is Kari Alperovitz-Bichell, MD, MPH. I reside in Annapolis in District 30a. But, I am representing myself, as a physician and a religious person. I am also representing the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland, a faith-based organization that advocates for legislation in Maryland that furthers Unitarian Universalist values. Our UU faith calls us to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people, so we promote legislation that recognizes every person's innate and inextinguishable value.

We urge you to support [HB 1368](#), The Birth Certificate Modernization Act.

This bill has several functions that are vitally important, particularly to transgender Marylanders and their children.

This bill will enable transgender parents to prove they are related to their own children after they have been granted an order of legal name change through the Maryland Courts. Consequently, these children will have the protection afforded by having two legal parents.

This bill will also allow Transgender Marylanders to have a gender marker of "X" on their birth certificates. This is critical for intersex individuals (people born with a combination of male and female physical traits) as well as non-binary and gender-non-conforming individuals. The bill would allow our citizens to align their Maryland documents with their other documents, including current US passports and documents from other states. Note that X markers are allowed on US passports, and on documents issued by 16 other states plus the District of Columbia - although the Trump administration has recently suspended issuing any *new* passports with either a gender change or an X marker.

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The bill will ease the cost and logistical burdens of obtaining accurate and matching documents for the transgender community, which is also vitally important in many circumstances, including in obtaining employment and interacting with law enforcement, and it greatly protects against harassment. While this bill will benefit only a small percentage of Marylanders, it is crucial for those individuals. We cannot deny them this legal pathway simply because they do not make up a majority constituency. Their worth and dignity are equally deserving of protection.

Therefore, the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland urges you to vote yes on [HB1368](#).

Respectfully submitted,
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