

Testimony Supporting SB0626
Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation
(Birth Certificate Modernization Act)
FAVORABLE

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Chair, Senator Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Senator Antonio Hayes, and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to ask you to vote in support of Senate Bill 626 (SB0626), the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (BCMA). SB0626 would modernize Maryland's process for changing a gender marker on a birth certificate to be consistent with policies in other states across the country. At a time when rights of transgender individuals are under widespread attack, Maryland can take an important step through the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (BCMA) to support transgender individuals in their daily lives.

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. In addition, the bill removes gatekeeping to change the gender marker on transgender parents' own birth certificates and allows X markers on Maryland birth certificates. It would make the update process for birth certificates consistent with what has been in place since 2019 for Maryland driver's licenses and state IDs, allowing self-selection of gender in documents produced by the Motor Vehicle Administration and the State Board of Elections.

The bill would lift burdensome paperwork obligations from medical and mental health providers, allowing for more time to treat patients. There would no longer be a need to produce medical documentation, such as proof of surgery or other medical interventions, that many individuals cannot access or do not want. At the same time, the bill would save transgender Marylanders from having to make – and pay for – unnecessary healthcare appointments.

The transgender community would benefit in other ways from easing the cost and logistical burden of obtaining accurate and matching documents, such as in obtaining employment, interacting with law enforcement, and preventing harassment.

SB0626 does not amend existing state laws or policies regarding housing incarcerated transgender people or participation in school sports; it does not change medical standards of care for transgender health for adults or youth; or allow individuals to change the gender designation on their birth certificates for fraudulent or criminal purposes. However, it does help LGBTQIA+ individuals feel supported in their community.

For these reasons, please return a favorable report on SB0626, the BCMA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Littell
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