

Bill: SB626
Position: Favorable
Committee: Finance
February 22, 2026

Favorable Testimony for SB626 – Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Coen Doss, and I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, a member of Maryland's LGBTQ+ community, and a resident of Legislative District 32.

As someone born in Florida, I've made my peace with the fact that my home state will never allow me to correct my birth certificate. The document I have doesn't reflect who I am, and legally, I have no pathway to fix it. That's precisely why I'm writing in **strong support of SB626, the Birth Certificate Modernization Act**. While my own state has chosen to shackle people to documents that misrepresent them, Maryland has the opportunity to choose the path of accuracy, dignity, and respect.

This bill isn't about granting new rights. It's about ensuring that a life-long document tells the truth. For transgender people, for intersex individuals, and anyone whose gender identity differs from what was assigned to them at birth, an accurate birth certificate isn't a luxury. It's a necessity for safety, employment, travel, and daily life. By removing burdensome requirements like affidavits from medical providers and creating a straightforward process for transgender parents to update the birth certificate(s) of their child(ren), this bill affirms that a person knows themselves best.

I may never have the chance to correct my own birth certificate, but I can stand in solidarity with Marylanders who deserve that opportunity. Florida's loss can be Maryland's gain. Show the country what real leadership looks like by treating all of your residents with the humanity they deserve.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report of SB626.

Thank you for your consideration.