

**[SB 626](#) - Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation
(Birth Certificate Modernization Act) (FAV)**

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Chair, members of the committee –

I am writing to express my strong support for the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (SB 626 / HB 1589).

This legislation addresses real and practical problems faced by Maryland families today. Currently, parents who have legally changed their names—whether due to marriage, divorce, gender transition, or safety concerns—often have no consistent or reliable way to update their information on their children’s birth certificates. This can make it unnecessarily difficult to prove a parent-child relationship, creating burdens that no family should have to navigate.

The bill also brings much-needed consistency and fairness to how transgender Marylanders update the gender marker on their birth certificates. While several state agencies already allow self-attestation, the Maryland Department of Health still requires certification from medical or mental health providers. This discrepancy creates unnecessary barriers, particularly for low-income individuals, and diverts providers’ time away from patient care and toward paperwork.

The Birth Certificate Modernization Act offers thoughtful, limited solutions. It reduces administrative burdens, cuts unnecessary Medicaid costs tied to provider visits solely for documentation, and aligns Maryland with many other states that already allow self-attestation under penalty of perjury. Importantly, it does so without changing medical standards of care, nondiscrimination laws, school sports policies, or procedures at the time of birth.

This bill is about efficiency, consistency, and dignity. It helps parents care for their families, allows state agencies to operate more effectively, and ensures that Marylanders’ identity documents accurately reflect who they are—without creating new risks or expanding policy into unrelated areas.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 626 / HB 1589 and help Maryland continue to lead with fairness, compassion, and good governance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

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