

NATALI FANI-GONZÁLEZ
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
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100 Maryland Ave
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CHAIR
Economic Development Committee (ECON)

MEMBER
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Montgomery County Council, I write in strong support of the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (SB 626). This legislation will allow parents who have legally changed their names to update their information on their children's birth certificates, ensuring family integrity and reducing unnecessary administrative barriers. It also standardizes gender marker updates across state agencies, enabling transgender Marylanders to self-attest under penalty of perjury, streamlining processes and reducing burdens on medical providers.

This community already faces significant challenges including navigating complex healthcare systems, dealing with insurance paperwork, managing specialized treatment side effects, and coping with family or social rejection. Adding bureaucratic obstacles only compounds these hardships. In today's political climate, where federal hostility toward transgender rights is escalating, Maryland must lead by example and provide clarity, compassion, and consistency.

SB 626 will reduce costs, ease the strain on healthcare providers, and bring Maryland in line with best practices nationwide. Most importantly, it will help families feel supported and connected during some of life's most challenging moments. This legislation is about dignity, unity, and compassion. I respectfully urge you to advance SB 626.

Sincerely,

Natali Fani-González
Montgomery County Council President
Councilmember, District 6
Chair, Economic Development Committee