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February 23, 2026

Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 626 Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the Finance Committee to report FAVORABLY on SB 626.

Requiring a medical professional affidavit for updating a sex designation on birth certificates is an outdated practice not in alignment with established treatment standards for trans and nonbinary (TNB) communities. Conducting an assessment and completing paperwork to confirm what is already the lived reality of TNB people is neither clinically necessary nor an effective use of the limited time available to clinicians to meet the mental health needs of communities across the state.

Removing this requirement and allowing self-attestation (as is already the case for other State driver's licenses and identification cards) will reduce the financial and administrative burden of these unnecessary visits on clinicians, clients, insurance companies, and the State's Medicaid and Medicare programs. Moreover, allowing parents who have received a name change for any reason to update their information on their child's birth certificate is an important way to ensure parents can demonstrate their legal relationship with their children, easing their ability to navigate a variety of systems and institutions, including healthcare.

These changes address important gaps in access and equity with regard to birth certificates and will allow psychologists to focus more of their time providing critical psychological services to clients.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 626. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D. at mpalegislativecommittee@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
President

Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.
Stephanie Olarte, Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs