

February 25, 2026
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TESTIMONY ON SB 626 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Your Full Name

My name is Michael English. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 626, Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

Thank you for agreeing to hear my testimony,

As a cisgender male I can only speak to this issue so well, but with my best friend, and at this point found sister, being a trans woman, the issue of trans rights has become very important to me, and I have found myself more and more involved in advocacy on the matter, which brings me to the need for this bill.

There is currently no consistent way to request an update of their own, or their child's birth certificate, and trans people in particular face varying degrees of need for medical records and signatures for updates. At a time when trans rights are under attack, this cannot stand.

The sorely needed legislation would make it easier to update the documents, and in turn, easier allow trans parents to prove they are related to their own children, a barrier most people might not even think to consider, but which can upend lives in an emergency situation. It would also lower the burden on overworked medical workers, cut Medicaid costs by simplifying compliance, and bring Maryland in line with 13 other states that already allow attestation of gender for birth certificates.

Little things add up, we need to help make this safe haven as welcoming and as helpful as possible to trans people in this time of persecution.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 462.

Thank you

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