

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB 0626 – The Birth Certificate Modernization Act

February 23, 2026

Hello, my name is Ishai Barnoy and I'm a constituent from Baltimore City.

I am writing **in support** of **SB 0626 – The Birth Certificate Modernization Act**.

I am a married person and a parent and an immigrant and a friend of people who have changed their names throughout their lives, some of whom are transgender. For all of these reasons, I realize the hardship and confusion involved in handling name changes in legal records and being recognized at critical moments for the simple fact of being true to one's identity.

I believe that this act will help Marylanders by providing a consistent way to change their names on their children's birth certificates, a fair way for transgender Marylanders to correctly identify gender markers on their documents, and reduce the amount of paperwork and confusion involved in the process of changing one's name overall.

I'd like to add that, in a time when it seems like so many parts of this nation are carrying out what seems like an erasure and genocide of transgender people, even here in Maryland where transgender youth have seen a significantly reduced access to gender affirming care, any effort to allow transgender people to live more genuinely, securely, and freely is absolutely necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

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