

Dear members of the Finance Committee:

I am a Baltimore City resident of District 46, community association leader, workforce development civil servant, and organizational psychology practitioner. I have close personal friends currently injured by binary status quo, and I recently became a father of a child whose sex at birth was thankfully compatible with the current legal environment but (that being the luck of the draw) whose future relationship to gender is still unknown. My own is complex enough. I strongly urge a favorable report on SB 626.

The BCMA is common sense. It will allow parents whose names have changed to prove their relationships to their own children. It will reduce administrative burdens, increase individual liberties, cut State costs, and apply consistency across State agencies. It is not radical; it will bring Maryland into line with 13 other states for self-attestation of gender (under penalty of perjury), and 16 states (plus D.C. and Puerto Rico) that allow X gender markers for those for whom male and female do not adequately apply.

There is nothing in this bill about school sports, fairness to woman athletes, or incarcerated people, or to change any medical standards of care. All of those are bad faith distractions.

For these reasons and for my basic spiritual belief as a Unitarian Universalist in the inherent dignity of all people, I once again urge a favorable report on SB0626.

Thank you again for your time,

John Preston Ford
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