

TO: The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Helene F. Hedian, MD

SB626
Favorable

DATE: February 25, 2026

RE: SB626 – Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards – Sex Designation

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (**SB 626**).

I am an internal medicine physician at Johns Hopkins who has personally cared for hundreds of transgender and nonbinary patients in the Baltimore region and beyond. The views expressed in this letter are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of the institution.

SB626 would directly help my patients in several ways:

1. As you know, many transgender and nonbinary people change their legal name during the course of pursuing gender affirmation. For those who are parents, SB 626 would allow amendment of their children's birth certificates to reflect their own (the parents') current legal name. Without this, it is challenging for transgender parents to legally prove that they are related to their own children.
2. In addition, transgender and nonbinary people may change their legal gender marker on identification documents such as a Maryland driver's license, and they may seek to amend the gender marker on their birth certificate, to ensure that all of their administrative documentation is in agreement. SB 626 would allow transgender people to self-identify the gender to be placed on their amended birth certificate, removing an outdated requirement for attestation by a medical professional. This self-attestation will be made under penalty of perjury, ensuring that this process is not undertaken lightly. This change would bring Maryland into alignment with the 14 other states which already allow self-identification of gender identity on birth certificates: California, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington state.
3. It clarifies that the X gender marker – which is already an option for Maryland state identification cards – is also valid for Maryland birth certificates. Maryland would join the ranks of 16 other states and DC which currently allow the X gender maker identification on birth certificates: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Washington state, and Washington DC.

Passing this bill will significantly ease the burden of accessing accurate administrative documents for the transgender and nonbinary community. In addition, it honors the dignity and right to privacy for this community. I urge you to issue a **favorable** report on the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (**SB 626**).

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Best Regards,



Helene F. Hedian, MD