

Re: SB0626 Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

Honorable members of the Maryland General Assembly Finance Committee,

My name is Rhys Frazier and I am a Virginia-born resident of Sabillasville, Maryland. I am writing to you in support of SB0626: Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act).

Many of the attacks on transgender Americans have focused on erasing our legal status, including by preventing us from having identification documents that align with the way we present ourselves and move through the world. Identification documents that don't reflect the gender we present as, such as driver's licenses and birth certificates, "out" us in administrative situations where our gender should be a non-issue and expose us to increased discrimination and a higher likelihood of transphobic violence.

SB0626's requirement that a birth certificates amended for sex and name change "may not be marked "amended"; or show in its face that a change has been made to: (1) a sex designation; or (2) If applicable, a name" would both help protect the private medical information of Maryland-born transgender people, and remove a way that their medical records could be used to identify and target them.

I strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of SB0626 Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act). Fewer than half of the states in the US haven't enacted legislation hostile to their transgender community. Maryland could be one of the few to proactively pass legislation that protects their transgender citizens and becomes a safe harbor for those fleeing hostile states.

Sincerely,

Rhys Frazier

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