

SB 626 - Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act) (FAV)

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Chair, members of the committee –

I am writing to express my strong support for the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (SB 626 / HB 1589).

As the parent of a transgendered daughter born in Colorado, we were able to update her birth certificate with relative ease; however, I've seen friends of mine jump through hoops to update their child's birth certificate that was issued here in Maryland.

The bill establishes consistent and reasonable standards for updating gender markers on birth certificates for transgender Marylanders. Although several state agencies already permit self-attestation, the Maryland Department of Health continues to require documentation from medical or mental health providers. This inconsistency creates avoidable obstacles—especially for low-income individuals—and pulls providers away from patient care to complete unnecessary paperwork.

This legislation also addresses real and practical problems faced by Maryland families today who may not have a transgendered child. For example, if parents legally changed their names for safety concerns, they often have no easy way to update their children's birth certificates. Because of this, it can be difficult to prove a parent-child relationship.

This legislation offers thoughtful, limited solutions. It would bring Maryland into alignment with many other states that already allow self-attestation. It also reduces red-tape and unnecessary Medicaid costs (getting a MD to sign off on paperwork).

This legislation advances good governance by improving efficiency and consistency across state agencies. It helps parents navigate essential family documentation and ensures that identity records are accurate and reliable, all without expanding state policy beyond its intended and appropriate scope.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 626 / HB 1589 and help Maryland continue to lead with fairness, compassion, and good governance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

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