



TESTIMONY

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

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lam

Committee: Senate Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, CoChair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of **SB0626** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

Not everyone fits neatly into the traditional definitions of male and female, yet nearly every part of our society is structured around those categories. SB0626 provides a straightforward way for people who do not fit those definitions to have their birth certificates accurately reflect who they are.

SB0626 updates Maryland’s process for issuing new birth certificates when an individual changes their sex designation. The bill clarifies when the Secretary of Health must issue a new certificate and establishes requirements and prohibitions to ensure the process is consistent, respectful, and protective of personal privacy.

The bill allows individuals to amend their birth certificate to designate their sex as “other” or “unspecified,” and it permits changes to a parent’s name. Importantly, these updates will **not** result in the new birth certificate being marked as amended. That protection matters—it ensures privacy, dignity, and equal treatment. Flexibility should exist in our institutions to match the flexibility with which people define themselves.

SB0626 aligns directly with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. Our work centers on transparency, accountability, and social justice. This bill ensures that state documents reflect people accurately and respectfully, consistent with our work. Therefore, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0626.