

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 626

Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation

(Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

Finance Committee

February 25, 2026

As a transgender nonbinary Marylander, I urge a FAVORABLE report on SB 626.

SB 626 allows individuals who were born in Maryland to change the sex designation on their birth certificate to M, F, or X without additional documentation from a licensed health care practitioner. This bill will also enable parents who have undergone a legal name change to update their names on their child's birth certificate, and prohibit changed birth certificates to show signs of being amended.

SB 626 increases the safety, life, liberty, and happiness of ALL Marylanders, including cisgender residents. Being able to fix errors on official documentation with no undue burden is a right that belongs to all of us.

Cisgender Americans have also faced issues when confronted with the same policies that hinder trans people. In Arizona, a 14 year old cisgender boy, Laker Jackson was prohibited from playing on the boys basketball team at his school because of a birth certificate clerical error that listed his gender as female¹ He was told he was only eligible to play on the girls team at his school. Although the youth was able to get his birth certificate amended to change his listed gender to male, the state refused to let him play even when his birth certificate was amended.

The Birth Certificate Modernization Act will allow all Marylanders to identify themselves accurately in a time that the state of Maryland must move with urgency to ensure protections from federal attacks on voting, via the SAVE act, for transgender and cisgender citizens alike.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on SB 626.

¹ Cunningham, J. (2025, October 17). *Valley Teen Boy told he has to play on girls team because of error on birth certificate.* 12News. Retrieved December 15, 2025, from <https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/valley/valley-teen-boy-told-play-girls-team-because-of-error-birth-certificate/75-c40779ce-9f50-4dfc-8a19-1ba2bc8da9c5>