



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

**KATE STEWART**  
COUNCILMEMBER  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 25, 2026

TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee

FROM: Kate Stewart  
Montgomery County Councilmember, District 4

RE: Senate Bill 626, *Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)*  
Support

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My name is Kate Stewart and I serve as the Montgomery County Councilmember for District 4. Today, I am writing on behalf of myself in support of Senate Bill 626, *Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)*.

This legislation would clarify that an “X” marker is permitted on Maryland certificates of birth, enable transgender parents to prove they are related to their own children after they have been granted an order of legal name change through the Maryland Courts, ensure the validity of existing birth certificates, ease the administrative burden of accessing accurate documents for the transgender community, and require attestation of gender on birth certificates to be made under penalty of perjury.

Given the current national political climate and the federal administration, legislation such as this is essential to pass at the state level to protect members of our LGBTQ+ community, especially transgender and gender nonconforming individuals. The federal administration has brought forth numerous executive orders targeting these communities, including prohibiting transgender individuals from serving openly in the military, restricting young people from accessing gender-affirming care, and keeping teachers from treating students with respect and dignity,

The Honorable Pamela Beidle

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denying the reality of these students' lives and causing immeasurable suffering. Senate Bill 626 will aid in solidifying these students' and other individuals' lived experiences and personal dignity by ensuring their legal documents properly reflect their gender identity.

The executive orders on the federal level and similar laws in other states are directed attacks on valued members of our community. We cannot let our transgender and gender nonconforming neighbors stand alone in the face of such uncertainty on the federal level. I urge you to support this bill to preserve the dignity and humanity each individual has a right to in their own identity.