

Testimony in support of SB 626 with amendments

Sex Designation on Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards and Birth Information Histories (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

April 1, 2026

Health Committee

Dear Honorable Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anna Britton and I am a resident of Severna Park, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 626 Sex Designation on Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards and Birth Information Histories (Birth Certificate Modernization Act) with amendments.

This bill would align birth certificate updates with current law regarding Maryland driver's licenses and state IDs. It would create consistency across agencies for updating gender markers on ID. It would increase efficiency in healthcare by reducing the burden of bureaucratic paperwork on healthcare professionals, allowing them to spend more time caring for patients. This bill would put a consistent process in place for Marylanders who have changed their name for any number of reasons—including those who are transgender, victims of crime, and abuse survivors—to update their own information on their children's birth certificates.

SB 626 is a common sense bill that would increase consistency and efficiency for Marylanders and across multiple agencies. Not to adopt this bill would in effect sacrifice increased efficiency of government agencies in order to discriminate against a vulnerable group of Marylanders.

However, this bill should be passed with an amendment to remove the amendment by Senator McKay that would create a history of birth certificate changes. Transgender people have been able to change their Maryland birth certificates for years now without this information being compiled, which could later be used to create a list of transgender people. Given the current attacks on the transgender community at the federal level and all over the country, this possibility must be taken seriously and trans Marylanders must be protected.

I urge a favorable report with amendments on SB 626.

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