

SB0626 - Birth Certificate Modernization Act (FAV)

Chair, members of the committee –

As a mother of a transgender daughter, I am compelled to share how deeply important this legislation is to my family. When my daughter was born in Colorado, we were able to update her birth certificate quite easily, a relief that provided her with a sense of validation and dignity. Yet, I know friends here in Maryland who have had to jump through hoops—facing unnecessary hurdles and emotional burdens—to make similar updates for their children.

This bill offers a fair and consistent approach to updating gender markers on birth certificates for Marylanders like my daughter. While some agencies already allow self-attestation, others continue to demand medical or mental health documentation, creating confusing and intimidating inconsistencies. These hurdles particularly impact low-income families, diverting precious resources and time away from what truly matters—supporting our children.

Furthermore, this legislation recognizes challenges that extend beyond gender identity. For families who have legally changed their names for safety reasons, it can be incredibly difficult to reflect these changes in their children’s documents, complicating the crucial process of proving parent-child relationships.

The proposed updates are thoughtful and limited, aligned with many other states that understand the importance of streamlined, compassionate policies. It reduces unnecessary bureaucracy and costs, making it easier for parents to keep family records accurate and accessible—something that benefits everyone.

At its core, this bill promotes efficient, fair governance, helping families navigate vital documentation without overreach. I respectfully ask you to support this legislation and avoid including language that creates a detailed list or report of gender marker changes. What matters most is ensuring that our children can live with dignity, authenticity, and security.

Thank you

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