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The Honorable Heather Bagnall
House Health Committee
240-241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony of Trans Maryland – Research Unit

IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS OF

Senate Bill #626: Sex Designation on Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards and Birth Information Histories (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the House Health Committee:

Trans Maryland is a multi-racial, multi-gender community power building organization for Maryland's trans community. Trans Maryland runs the state's largest name and gender marker change program and collaborated with a team of researchers on a state-wide assessment of trans community experiences. Our [report on identity documents](#) found:

- Only **14.4%** of trans Marylanders had their correct gender on all IDs
- Individuals making **\$35,000 or less** annually and individuals with **disabilities** were significantly less likely to have their gender reflected on their ID documents

Our data highlight the importance of making accurate identity documents accessible to trans people in Maryland. The Birth Certificate Modernization Act streamlines administrative processes and removes unnecessary barriers faced by trans people in Maryland, particularly those with lower incomes and with disabilities, to obtaining accurate documentation.

From employment to education to healthcare, accurate identity documents are critical for so many areas of everyday life. These simple changes will help ensure more trans Marylanders can access documents that match who they are, with measurable impacts on safety and wellbeing for communities across our State.

The legislation also has strong protections and guardrails to maintain the integrity of birth documents. Senate Floor Amendment #323820/1 (Senator McKay) regarding "birth information history" is unnecessary and will create additional confusion and unease around this process that will ultimately undermine the benefits to safety and wellbeing intended by this legislation.

For these reasons, we urge a **favorable with amendments report** on SB 626, removing the language from Senate Floor Amendment #323820/1.