

SB626 -- FAVORABLE WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT

SB626 (HB1589) Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act) Hearing in House Health Committee on 4/01/26

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the House Health Committee:

We represent the Coalition for LGBTQ+ Students, which is a grassroots organization in Anne Arundel County that supports LGBTQ+ youth through advocacy, policy and education. We strongly **SUPPORT SB626 WITH A PROPOSED AMENDMENT**-- the Birth Certificate Modernization Act. We are asking that an amendment be added that would cut out the amendment proposed by Senator McKay. The amendment proposed by Senator McKay would create a “history” in birth certificate changes, which could be used to compile a list of transgender people. We believe the amendment proposed by Senator McKay is detrimental and potentially harmful to transgender citizens. Therefore, we want to have an amendment that would cut out Senator McKay’s amendment.

Transgender people have been able to change their Maryland birth certificates for years without this “history” being compiled. Given the attacks on transgender people in our country, it is especially dangerous to keep Senator McKay’s amendment in this bill.

We need SB 626 without Senator McKay’s amendment to better protect the civil rights, safety and well-being of transgender people in Maryland. SB 626 should not add more danger and potential harm to them. Unfortunately, Senator McKay’s amendment is unnecessary and potentially harmful.

Changing a birth certificate gender marker is an essential aspect of gender affirmation for transgender people. Having a gender marker that corresponds with one’s gender identity lowers the risk of harassment, discrimination, and negative health outcomes.

Currently, transgender people are terrified and for good reason. The rights of transgender people are under enormous attack. Access to gender affirming health care is being systematically destroyed, transgender soldiers have been banned from serving in the military and have lost retirement benefits, and transgender people across the United States are being scapegoated, vilified and pathologized. Many people, including our elected officials, want to eradicate the rights and identities of transgender citizens. They do not accept that transgender people have existed since the beginning of time and will not disappear or be intimidated into silence. We should not make life harder for transgender people. SB626 with our proposed amendment removes barriers for transgender citizens in Maryland and conveys respect and acceptance for them as human beings who (like all of us) simply want to live their lives with dignity.

For all these reasons, legal gender affirmation is critically important and should be easily accessible for all transgender citizens in Maryland. Please support SB626 with our proposed amendment.

The Coalition for LGBTQ+ Students

www.coalition4lgbtqstudents.org