

SB 626 - Favorable with Amendments - Health Committee

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

My name is Carolyn Lampila and I am a resident of Montgomery County. I am requesting a favorable report, with amendments, of Senate Bill 626.

I am a cisgender ally of the transgender community. For this and other reasons, I strongly support the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (Senate Bill 626) because it will make it easier for parents to update their information on their children's Maryland birth certificates, as well as modernize the process for transgender Marylanders updating the gender marker on their own birth certificates.

This bill addresses many critical items. Currently, Marylanders who change their names for any reason, whether they are transgender, abuse survivors, victims of crime, etc., have no consistent way to request an update of their own information on their children's birth certificates. Additionally, transgender Marylanders who want to update the gender markers on their Maryland identity documents are subjected to different rules at different agencies. The Motor Vehicle Administration and State Board of Elections have allowed self-selection of gender since 2019, while the Maryland Department of Health requires attestation by a medical or mental health provider. At a time when they are under attack by the federal government, medical and mental health providers are spending precious time filling out paperwork instead of treating patients.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed amendment requiring reports of transgender Marylanders who had the gender marker on their birth certificates changed. Any reporting requirement or language that creates the ability for reports of individuals who have changed gender markers on their birth certificates. must not be included. Having lists or reports of transgender Marylanders who changed their gender marker would be extremely harmful.

In conclusion, I strongly support a favorable report of SB 626 with amendments and am strongly opposed to the amendment requiring reports of transgender Marylanders.

Best Regards,

Carolyn Lampila