



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB626

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

House Health Committee
April 1, 2026

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

We Are CASA (formerly, “CASA”) is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of SB 626 - Sex Designation on Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards and Birth Information Histories (Birth Certificate Modernization Act).**

We Are CASA is a national organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities.

With a membership of over 189,000 members, We Are CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. For nearly forty years, We Are CASA has employed grassroots community organizing to bring our communities closer together and fight for justice, while simultaneously providing vital services to communities across the state and beyond.

We Are CASA, works every day with community members who are working, raising families, and contributing to their communities. Many are construction workers, caregivers, restaurant workers, parents, and students trying to build stable lives for themselves and their families. One barrier we see again and again is identification documents. An ID is not just a piece of paper. It can determine whether someone can get a job, access health care, open a bank account, secure housing, pick up their child from school, move safely through daily life, and a powerful tool to affirm someone’s inherent dignity.

When a person’s documents do not reflect who they are, it creates real problems. We have seen people lose jobs, struggle to access services, and experience fear or discrimination because their documents did not match their identity. For immigrant communities, who already navigate complicated systems, these barriers are even greater. Outdated or inconsistent processes for updating identification documents add unnecessary stress for families who are simply trying to work, care for their loved ones, and participate fully in their communities.

Senate Bill 626 is about fairness and making government work better for people. It helps ensure that everyone can get identification documents that reflect who they are without unnecessary



obstacles. This is not just paperwork. It affects people's ability to work, live safely, and take care of their families.

We ask that you allow Senate Bill 626 to continue so that Maryland can continue supporting working families and immigrant communities.

For these reasons, We Are CASA stands in solidarity with Trans Maryland and urges a favorable with amendment report on Senate Bill 626.