

**SB 626/HB 1589:** Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards - Sex Designation (Birth Certificate Modernization Act): Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Health Committee:

I am writing to express my strong **opposition** to **SB 626/HB 1589**, the "Birth Certificate Modernization Act."

**Birth certificates serve as foundational legal and historical records** documenting biological facts at the time of birth, including sex as observed and recorded by medical professionals. Altering the process for changing or **issuing new certificates** based on self-identified sex designation **will undermine the accuracy, integrity, and reliability of these vital documents**. Such changes will create inconsistencies in official records used for identity verification, medical history, genealogy, legal proceedings, sports participation, and other critical purposes where biological sex is relevant.

Furthermore, expanding or modifying sex designation options on state-issued licenses, identification cards, and moped operator's permits to include vague categories like "Unspecified or Another" may complicate verification processes for law enforcement, travel, employment, age-restricted activities, and single-sex spaces or services. **These documents are meant to provide clear, factual identification, and introducing ambiguity could lead to confusion, fraud risks, or unintended consequences for public safety and privacy.**

While I respect individuals' rights to personal identity and expression, official government records should prioritize biological and medical accuracy over self-identification, especially when changes could affect third parties or longstanding legal standards. While I appreciate the additional language about "birth information histories", this language doesn't add enough value to the bill, since it indicates that it ...IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT... Maryland should maintain clear distinctions in these records by adding language allowing a "birth certificate, license, ID card or birth information history" to show that it has been amended, rather than further blurring lines that impact many areas of life.

I urge the Committee to **give SB 626/HB 1589 an unfavorable report** and prevent its passage. Protecting the accuracy and purpose of birth certificates and identification documents is essential for the integrity of our state's records and the protection of all Marylanders.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns regarding this important legal record legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals