



SB 626 - The Birth Certificate Modernization Act
Favorable With Amendments

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

We proudly present comments from Marylanders in support of SB626, the Birth Certificate Modernization Act, with one amendment. This bill represents an important and long-overdue step toward ensuring that Marylanders can access accurate identity documents that reflect their lives, their families, and their identities. By streamlining updates to birth certificates—including parentage and gender markers, and by adding an X marker—SB626 advances dignity, safety, and administrative efficiency.

However, we oppose the bill going forward without removing the amendment requiring the Department of Health to maintain a record of birth information history, and request the House remove this amendment.

Public Comments:

SB626 provides folks with accurate documentation that they need. When my child recently applied and was hired for a new job, I was so grateful that my child's birth certificate aligns with their gender identity. When I completed this process in 2022, I gathered documents, forms, a letter from their doctor, and made multiple trips to various offices around the city during the work day, taking the financial double hit of time off and multiple fees due. I am grateful that through the foresight and hard work of activists, parents in the future will have an easier time making this important change to their children's documents. Knowing that my child's anonymity and privacy are protected in this process is absolutely paramount. The amendment adds a layer of danger that would give me pause if I were making this change today.

– Parent of an Amazing Trans Kid, Catonsville

Please pass SB626, the birth certificate modernization act. All legislators should be voting for dignity, fairness and safety for their constituents.

– William Henderson, Catonsville

This is so important for the health and safety of transgender and gender non-binary people!

– Lydia Watts, Baltimore

This amendment is unnecessary and puts folks at serious risk. Trans rights are human rights and everyone deserves to feel safe in their own skin.

– Emily Dwyer, Columbia

We NEED this bill. Many lives will be positively made better.

– Lynn Ellen Anderson, Columbia

I deserve to be treated with respect and kindness as a transgender woman in America. Being forced to have my assigned sex at birth on documentation at a time when trans people are very much under attack is cruel and unusual punishment, lacking in compassion and decency. Please do the right thing by passing the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (SB626). The world is watching and will forever remember if politicians stood by the vulnerable, or if they turned their backs on them out of complete and utter cowardice.

– Erica Burns, Belcamp

Please support SB626 WITHOUT the amendment for "birth information history." Thank you!

– Bethesda Resident

In the height of targeting marginalized groups, especially those of the LGBTQ+, keeping such a list, registry, however sealed, puts our privacy and safety at risk. Especially if further political pressure to release such private information, puts our lives and safety at risk. Making us a greater target. This amendment must be removed! All Marylanders deserve dignity, safety and privacy.

– Jane Blossom, Westminster

NO TRANS REGISTRY! Tennessee is doing backwards stuff like recording who is trans, we don't need this. If you want to collect anonymous metadata, fine, but the outcome of this amendment can be used to track transgender people and reverse changes if a conservative government takes over. Please protect us from the tyranny and horror of the ignorant.

– Fiona Leathers, Baltimore

I support SB626. But I urge you to remove the "birth information history" amendment. Even a sealed government record with someone's Assigned Gender at Birth leaves the door open for harming our

transgender citizens, who deserve the privacy and protection of a birth certificate that shows their desired gender and no backdoor for a government entity to deny them a passport, RealID, or benefit because we kept a sealed record showing a different gender at birth.

– Lisa S., Columbia

With everything targeting trans people, please get rid of the amendment for a sealed birth history record. In other states, the government is weaponizing this information for public use about trans medical history. This puts a target on trans people's backs. Be better than that and allow trans people their privacy. It might be their medical history, but that's not to be left to anyone's discretion but theirs. Please pass this bill and get rid of that amendment.

– Dawnsk Gardner, Mount Airy

Hello, I am a Maryland resident and fierce ally of the trans community. I urge that this harmful birth information history amendment to an otherwise perfect bill be removed before proceeding forward. People deserve to not have their privacy invaded while they proceed with an already private and personal matter such as updating birth certificate information. The birth information history amendment would only open the door for discrimination against transgender people in a way that would completely undermine the purpose of updating birth certificates in the first place. All people deserve to have accurate and private documents without effectively putting themselves on a public list.

– Timerra Toussaint, Silver Spring

We should all be free to choose how we live our lives. Especially if it makes one's life happier and more fulfilled.

– Samantha Fernekees, Manchester

Removing the "birth information history" amendment. The amendment is being used to create a registry of transgender folks. There is no true need to collect this data unless it's going to be used maliciously in the future. Keeping the amendment in is a dangerous and violating proposition.

– Heather Kissinger, Hyattsville

I came to MD because of the identity protections. Don't start taking them away.

– Anonymous, Hyattsville

It's great to make birth certificates easier to change - but not at the cost of our privacy! Keeping a registry of changes is tantamount to handing Trump a hit list. Let's keep our residents safer.

– Mara Levy, Silver Spring

As a trans person who grew up in a conservative state that does not allow birth certificate sex marker updates, I love Maryland for its protections for trans residents. This amendment requiring "birth information history" would be a huge step back for trans rights. Please protect trans Marylanders by removing this amendment and giving trans people the right to privacy and peace of mind knowing that their birth information is off the record forever.

– KL, Parkville

Please protect the privacy of trans people! This bill is so important to trans people in Maryland, so please do not add provisions that will compromise the benefits the bill is meant to confer with this amendment!

– M Lang, Derwood

The "birth information history" Amendment has no place in this bill. All people deserve respect and their sensitive information protected. Period.

– Artemis Silbert, Gaithersburg

While I support the underlying initiative of this bill, recent amendments are unacceptable. Please vote to remove the "birth information history" amendment. As a trans woman, the idea of any state or federal government obtaining a list of individual citizens is abhorrent and anti-American.

– Anonymous, Chevy Chase

This amendment would unfairly create a registry, sealed or not, of trans individuals which could eventually be weaponized against that community. This must not pass.

– Maddie Glisson, Silver Spring

I don't see the purpose of this amendment except to harm transgender persons.

– Nicola Netto White, College Park

I am writing to support the modernization of birth certificates, but I urge lawmakers to remove the amendment to keep a record of changes. It is an egregious violation of privacy. No record needs to be kept of these changes except for the purpose of monitoring a specific group of people. The record may expose personal information of Americans if it's ever accessed. We have a right to self-determination, and we don't need that to be surveilled.

– Maryland Resident, Salisbury

Please pass this act WITHOUT the birth information history amendment! This amendment would directly endanger my transgender brother. I love him and want to keep him safe. Please help protect him.

– Supportive Ally, Takoma Park

Support SB 626 but remove the birth information history amendment! We saw what Elon Musk did with IRS data!

– Ann Geddes, Columbia

The amendment to the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (SB626) that would require the state to create and permanently maintain a sealed “birth information history” that includes a person’s sex designation at birth and prior name must be removed from the Birth Certificate Modernization Act (SB626). While I strongly support SB626 this amendment is a dangerous violation of privacy. During this current Presidential administration we've seen just how easily and readily the government can and will bend the rules to violate the rights of, and discriminate against trans people. This amendment goes against the spirit of this bill and will deeply affect the trans/non-binary community and others. Accurate, private identity documents are a necessity and right for all people and are especially crucial for trans people— for our safety, our dignity, and our right to exist without discrimination. I urge you to remove this amendment and then pass SB626. Thank you!

– Katie Starbird-Tierney, Takoma Park

Maintaining a registry is such a bad idea because as history shows, any database can be hacked. Anti trans activists can and will use this to out and dox trans people to intimidate them or cause them harm. This registry needs to be removed, please remove the amendment. Thank you.

– Taliyah W., Silver Spring

I am in support of SB626 to the extent that it enables people to more easily update their birth certificates to reflect their name, family, and gender. However, I am extremely concerned by and vehemently against the amendment that would require a registry of "birth certificate history." Even if sealed, there are mechanisms available through legal process to access sealed documents and expose information that puts the privacy and safety of those who have updated their birth certificates at risk. This is particularly dangerous at a time that the federal government is seeking to erase at least one category of marginalized people who would be likely to update their birth certificates (i.e., transgender people). I therefore urge the passage of SB626 only with that harmful, invasive amendment removed.

– Arielle S., Potomac

This bill must be passed, but they must remove the harmful amendment that would mark us for easy targeting for the federal government. Maryland must respect trans people's right to self determination and our right to be protected from discrimination and abuse.

– Ida Kenna, Baltimore

Please move this bill forward WITHOUT the amendment that opens trans people up to federal persecution.

– Maryland Voter, Chevy Chase

This bill would allow trans people to not be forced to share deeply personal information about their bodies with strangers each time they are asked to provide identification for any reason. This is dehumanizing and humiliating. Let trans people mark their IDs to match their actual identification. HOWEVER, the harmful provision of adding a marking that the document is "amended" continues to put trans people at risk. For this reason I am urging a vote of FWA, and to remove this harmful provision.

– Rice Rodriguez, Baltimore

I ask you to urgently support SB626 and remove the "birth information history" amendment. Why are we making it harder for transgender people to find safety in our state? We can make this better for all we don't need more hidden documents.

– Michael Lent, Parkville

I am strongly requesting that the amendment to SR262, introduced by Senator McKay, be removed from this bill. Last year, I testified in favor of the House version of this bill (HB1368) as Marylanders

need this bill to provide them and their families the support and dignity to live their lives authentically. The effort and intent that was placed into these bills' previous versions is completely invalidated by Senator McKay's floor amendment 323820/1. Maintaining a record of these changes places Marylanders at risk of malicious actions if a data breach occurs, as well as future political abuses as we have seen in Kansas, Idaho, Tennessee, and other states. As a transgender individual, the struggle to exist in a world with the wrong information on your documents is exhausting. It leads to a lot of repetitive conversations and time lost anywhere you need to prove you are who you say you are. It can also lead to harassment, violence, and much worse. We can't control how the rest of the world treats us, but we can do better for our citizens here. Please remove this harmful amendment and move the original bill forward so that people like me that were born here in Maryland can have a birth certificate that matches who they are, and the knowledge that their state supports them. Thank you.

– Tuiren Hearth, Hyattsville

This is critical to protect our Maryland citizens. Please pass the Birth Certificate Modernization Act.

– Christ West, Reisterstown

My fellow Marylanders,

I am a transgender woman and have been a resident of Montgomery County since I was two years old. In the current political climate I am extremely concerned for my community, my friends, and especially for a transgender family member who has a Maryland birth certificate but has not yet had the opportunity to change it. The amendment establishing "a database of birth information histories that may be accessed by governmental entities", regardless of the purpose or circumstance of such access, is a terrifying prospect. I implore you to either reject this amendment or, if that is not possible, kill the bill entirely.

The proposed record of birth certificate changes is highly suspect, and I believe it will only result in future privacy violation, outing, and discrimination. The sex I was assumed to be at birth is an unfortunate genetic quirk and, beyond the rare cases in which we might choose to privately and voluntarily disclose certain details to doctors for medical purposes, is not legitimately relevant to any agency, governmental or otherwise. The proposed record could only serve to restrict my civil rights and put my wellbeing at risk, not protect those rights or benefit me in any way.

Perhaps you believe there is no harm in acquiescing on this issue, as the records are sealed and supposedly will never see wide release. But as long as such records exist there is the potential for release to hostile entities judged as legitimate interests, mishandling, misuse, or a change to the laws that attempt to protect those records. In a world where the federal government and various state governments seek to revoke the documents of transgender people or charge them with document fraud, where the federal government is attempting to subpoena hospitals in order to target transgender people, their parents, and their doctors, where trans people are being systematically denied accurate

passports, where even the Social Security Administration lost proper custody of their own records to DOGE, where two of our state's last four governors have been Republicans and future officials may be swayed or coerced by the current administration to sell out a small portion of their constituents, where so many of our fellow citizens have been manipulated by political propaganda and other lies to view transgender people as un-American, dangerous, inhuman -- any possible perceived benefit to government is dwarfed by the liability such a record poses to our rights and freedoms. "It can't happen here" until it does.

Please do not let this amendment or any similar record of birth certificate changes be made into law.
Thank you,

– Juliana H., Gaithersburg

I am a resident of Baltimore City, a mom, and a voter, and I am writing to urge you to support SB626 fully. That means removing the harmful amendment that would include birth information history! Having such information on a birth certificate is like putting a target on the backs of trans people; it would make it easy for this regime and other anti-trans actors to identify trans people and continue their campaign against them. Please reject that amendment!

– Sally Dworak-Fisher, Baltimore

Monday, March 30, 2026

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am a resident of Charles County and District 5. I am testifying in support of SB0626, Sex Designation on Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards and Birth Information Histories (Birth Certificate Modernization Act) -- with amendments.

Allowing residents to update their birth certificate so that it accurately reflects their name, family, and gender is a critical step towards fairness, safety, and dignity. However, the proposed amendment requiring the state to create and permanently maintain a sealed "birth certificate history" that includes a person's sex and name at birth creates a record that could expose sensitive personal information and puts people at risk. It undermines the purpose of updating a birth certificate in the first place. As we've seen, the federal government will stop at nothing to terrorize transgender people simply for existing. This amendment would make it easier for the federal government to do just that. Other states are passing cruel laws to criminalize and promote violence against transgender people. In Kansas, not only are they revoking transgender people's driver's licenses, but they also passed a bill that would allow bounty hunters to assault transgender people in bathrooms. We need to establish Maryland as a sanctuary state for transgender people who are simply trying to survive in this country, just like everyone else. Transgender people existing does absolutely nothing to harm others -- it is the juvenile reactions to their existence that is harmful.

I strongly believe that SB0626 needs to be passed, but the amendment to create a permanent record of the birth certificate amendments must be removed. Now more than ever, Maryland needs laws that protect the most vulnerable members of our community. Maryland is already a relatively safe state for most people who live outside of gender norms, and it is imperative that lawmakers do all they can to strengthen that.

We must stand up for our friends, family, and neighbors by refusing to be complicit in transphobia. It is for all of these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of the Birth Certificate Modernization Act with the amendments removed.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

– C.C. Wedding, Bryantown

We've learned from other state legislatures and urge the passage of SB626, so people can move forward with their identities. (Birth certificates are foundational to getting U.S. and other passports.) The "birth information history" amendment is trouble, though, and should be removed. Privacy is so hard to ensure. How many data breaches have you been notified of (banks, stores, healthcare systems)? Me, several. Creating a "sealed" record would make it so easy, in one fell hacking swoop, to get a list of trans people. Let's listen to people most directly affected, and not create potential for harm.

– Laura Atwood, Silver Spring
