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House Health Committee
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Senate Bill 626 – *Sex Designation on Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards and Birth Information Histories (Birth Certificate Modernization Act)*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 626.

Senate Bill 626 updates Maryland’s vital records and identity documentation processes to allow individuals to amend the sex designation on birth certificates and related identification documents to match their gender identity, and to include an “unspecified or another” designation. This bill advances patient-centered care by aligning state policy with established medical understanding of gender identity and reducing unnecessary barriers that can impede access to essential services, including health care, employment, education, and travel.

The American Medical Association (AMA), the nation’s largest association of physicians, affirms that individuals should be able to determine their gender identity and sex designation on government documents. The AMA has also recognized that outdated binary sex markers on birth certificates can inadvertently contribute to stigma and discrimination for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex persons, and supports policies that remove or broaden such designations to reflect contemporary medical understanding.

MedChi supports this legislation, consistent with the AMA’s policy. Aligning official documentation with an individual’s lived identity can improve mental health outcomes, reduce stigma, and promote health equity. Importantly, policies like Senate Bill 626 allow physicians, patients, and families to focus on individual health and well-being without creating administrative obstacles tied to outdated document categories.

MedChi urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 626.

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