

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, MD 20617