

ida kenna

Chair of Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America's Trans Rights and Bodily Autonomy Working Group

ida.kenna@protonmail.com

Resident of 21218

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Concerning **SB626**, Sex Designation on Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards and Birth Information Histories (Birth Certificate Modernization Act) — **Favorable with Amendment**

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the House of Delegates Health Committee:

I urge you to give SB626, Sex Designation on Certificates of Birth, Licenses, and Identification Cards and Birth Information Histories (Birth Certificate Modernization Act), a favorable report but to reverse a harmful amendment that was made to it before it passed the Senate.

I strongly support this bill and urge its passing regardless of the amendment, because as a trans woman I know first-hand the pain of being misgendered on documents used to define my identity, assertions made by doctors without my consent. Born in California, I've been able to update my name and correct my sex marker on my birth certificate, but like the change that was made to SB626, my birth certificate is now marked as amended and differs from the sealed original, making it **vulnerable to subpoena by the fascist federal government** or possible future state governments of California.

Trans people have the right to self-determine. Names and sex are social constructs and we should not be forced to live an impersonal fantasy imposed on us by other people. We should be able to have our correct names on our children's documents as well. Being forced to live with discrepancies between documents can be terrifying when **our legal rights** are so pinned to those pieces of paper and data.

Please don't make the same mistake that other states have made by exceptionalizing us, retaining a lie about who we are as the truer underlying document and **offering us only a veneer of acceptance for who we are**. Leaving the fact that we've updated our documents — even when we've only been allowed to add a layer on top of them — plain to see for hostile actors, like the current fascist federal administration that is **terrorizing and disenfranchising us** while it builds its gestapo forces and attempts mass ethnic cleansing, killing people on the streets and in concentration camps. Florida and Texas have already been **making lists of us** and criminalizing our "identities", while Kansas is now **revoking our identification** and drivers licenses. This is going to get so much worse in much of the country — **the State of Maryland must protect its trans residents**.

I urge you to **pass SB626, but to remove the amendment added by the Senate** that robs us of self-determination and marks us as "amended".

Solidarity,

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