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LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Bill: HB 1203 Certificates of Birth and Marriage Certificates – Issuance of New Certificates – Sex Designation

Organization: PFLAG Salisbury Inc., PO Box 5107, Salisbury Maryland 21802

Submitted by: Michèle Schlehofer, Legislative Chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

SALISBURY PFLAG SUPPORTS HB 1203 – Issuance of New Certificates – Sex Designation

I am submitting this testimony in FAVOR of HB 1203 on behalf of PFLAG Salisbury, the Salisbury, Maryland Chapter of PFLAG National.

HB 1203 would do two important things: (1) allow transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people to change their gender marker on their child's birth certificate, and (2) allow transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people to change the gender marker on their marriage license without a court order or divorce, following a gender transition.

As birth and marriage certificates are often used to prove citizenship and/or legal identity, it is important that they be free of errors or inconsistencies. Birth certificates are one of the most common documents used to verify a person's identity. Inconsistencies and inaccuracies on these documents can create additional complications for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people, leading to heightened scrutiny of documentation and creating barriers to services for which these documents provide access. This bill would allow transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people the ability to correct inaccuracies on these vital documents, while simultaneously reducing the need to out themselves as transgender, nonbinary, or intersex. Creating easier pathways for updating gender documentation on records is in line with State of Maryland priorities for accurate records, and helps ensure the protections of, safety for, and accessibility to services for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex Marylanders.

PFLAG Salisbury supports HB 1203 and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.