



## LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Bill: **HB361 Birth Certificate Modernization**

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

Submitted by: Nicole Hollywood, President of the Board

Position: **FAVORABLE**

### **SALISBURY PFLAG SUPPORTS BIRTH CERTIFICATE MODERNIZATION**

I am submitting this testimony in FAVOR of HB361 on behalf of PFLAG Salisbury, the Salisbury, Maryland Chapter of PFLAG National.

An estimated 19% of transgender adults in the U.S. are parents, according to a recent study by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law. And, a 2020 study published in the journal Parenting found that children in trans parent families had good-quality relationships and exhibited strong psychological adjustment.

State-issued documents are necessary to navigate many aspects of daily life, such as verifying a person's identity to open a bank account, begin a new job, or travel. These documents are known as vital records and the information listed on them must be consistent with state-issued identification, which means that maintaining consistent personal identification may require the amending of a birth certificate. These amendments may include a name change, changing parental marker, or changing a gender marker to confirm one's gender identity.

Birth certificates establish a child's legal parentage and having birth certificates updated to reflect the accurate and legal name of a parent following a name change is beneficial to the child. HB361 will enable transgender parents to prove they are related to their own children after they have been granted an order of legal name change through the Maryland Courts. It will also ensure existing birth certificates previously issued by Maryland Department of Vital Statistics remain valid

HB361 would update gender marker policies at Maryland Department of Health Vital Statistics Administration in order to bring them in line with those issued by other state agencies. Because of this, PFLAG Salisbury Inc. supports HB361 and recommends a FAVORABLE report in committee.