

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 1203

**Title:** Certificates of Birth and Marriage Certificates – Issuance of New Certificates- Sex Designation

**Hearing Date:** March 2, 2021

**Position:** Support

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 1203 –Certificates of Birth and Marriage Certificates – Issuance of New Certificates – Sex Designation*. This bill would require the Secretary of Health to issue a new birth certificate for an individual related to the sex designation of a parent listed on the certificate. This bill would also require a clerk who issues a marriage license to issue a new marriage certificate that includes a different sex designation.

PPM is committed to high quality, affordable reproductive health care services. PPM seeks to help individuals make informed decisions about their reproductive health, family planning options and sexuality. As a leader and supporter of navigating sexuality, PPM supports this bill because it will allow for an accurate portrayal of an individuals' gender identity. Amending the sex designation on a birth or marriage certificate may be an extremely important step for a transgender person. Accurate sex designation is important for these legal documents and required to obtain other identity and legal documents. PPM fully supports transgender related issues and believes that transgender people have the same basic needs and rights as cisgender people.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Suhani Chitalia at [schitalia@policypartners.net](mailto:schitalia@policypartners.net) or (240) 506-9325.