

My name is May Alyssa Meara Ragna Tuscano and I am representing myself in this testimony.

I am writing this testimony in support of HB. No. 7006 An Act Concerning Birth Certificate Amendments. I am in support of this bill because this bill will significantly increase the quality of life for me and transgender people like myself. Specifically, this bill will increase the ability of me and people who are transgender to gain fair access to education, housing, employment, and healthcare.

Results of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey report (2011) that

- Transgender people are 4x more likely to live in poverty
- Transgender people have double the rate of unemployment
- 16% of transgender people reported being compelled to work in the underground economy for income.
- 1 in 5 transgender people reported being refused a home or apartment based on their gender identity.

Birth certificates are an important part of background checks and other crucial steps in employment, education admission, government procedures, and housing. These research findings clearly highlights that congruency of documents is a crucial factor in the economic and health, and quality of life outcomes of transgender people.

My lived experience as a transgender person confirms these research findings. This previous week, for example, I was at a job interview. In knowing that I would be required to have a background check, I had to come out to my interviewer so that they wouldn't be surprised when conflicting gender markers came up. As I suspected, the interviewer had no idea that I was

transgender. In that moment, I was not only vulnerable to discrimination, but I was also being seen differently. I just wanted to go about that job as another woman. Now, however, that won't be possible. That interviewer will be my supervisor and is the director of the clinic I was applying to. I could sense from our interactions afterwards that he would never see me the same again, and I would never be just another woman working at the clinic.

In conclusion, I support H.B. No. 7006 AN ACT CONCERNING BIRTH CERTIFICATE AMENDMENTS because congruence of gender markers to my identity is crucial for my employment, health care, housing, education, successful interaction with government agencies, and overall quality of life. This position is supported both by national research and my lived experiences as a transgender person.