

Dear Co-Chair Flexer and Co-Chair Fox, Vice Chairs Winkler and Haskell, Ranking members Senator Sampson and Representative France, and esteemed members of the committee,

I am writing to you today to ask for your support on HB5505 and how it would impact my friends and I. Please see at the end of this email related links showing a clear movement throughout the US.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, this bill is very important to me, and I have many friends who identify as non-binary or genderfluid, who it would be even more important to. It may seem like a small, inconsequential thing to someone who identifies as either male or female, but to someone who doesn't, it is visual, tangible proof that who they are is not considered valid. To put it in perspective, imagine trying to apply for a driver's license and not seeing male as an option. It might make you feel like who you are isn't okay, or real; and no one should ever have to feel like that.

In order for society to grow united, it is important to stress all issues of Social Justice. Gender Identity is very personal and a very sensitive matter. When filling up a form or application, from the DAS, SEEC, DMV, or any other official state agencies, in writing or online, I do not feel we are reflecting today's society with the gender options. Myself and friends and the LGBTQ community are strongly feeling that the state should lead by example and not forget a part of the constituents that do not associate with either the Male or Female gender. This bill would give the opportunity on all official state forms and applications to have a third check box.

M  F  X.

Also for consistency, it should be included in the language of the bill, that mailings from the state addressed to the people recognized as neither M or F would be addressed as Mx instead of either Mr Ms or Mrs. Check the Merriam-Webster link. It is already being used in various states as per the links below.

We understand this implies electronic changes and will not be a costly update to the Department of Administrative Services, to the DMV, the SEEC, the DOT and other state agencies with their own forms and applications to update. Additionally it should be at no additional cost to anyone these changes serve.

This is why I am asking that you support this House Bill 5505, and give it the opportunity to get out of committee and help and support make its way up to the governor's desk. It is important that we not let anyone in our state feel left out and not recognized for who they are. It is of utter importance that all members of a community feel included, respected and loved.

We would also like to thank Representatives Jeff Currey, Raghiv Allie-Brennan, Jillian Gilchrest, Josh Elliott and David Michel for their support.

Members of the committee, please help HB5505 get to the House Chamber !

Sincerely,

Emma Bromley

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