Senate Human Service Committee
March 20th, 2023 HB 1297
Testimony in Opposition

Dear Chair Lee and the members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1297.

- According to committee work, this bill will impact 2-4 people over the next 2 years.
- As someone who works in healthcare with a high trans population, all sex documentation is handled by driver’s license, not birth certificate - any concerns for medicine are moot.
- Darin Mensche, Director of Division of Vital Records, already indicated the process is in alignment with the current amended bill, making this completely redundant.
- I agree with comments made by Chair Robin Weisz during committee work that these processes to allow trans individuals to transition are not harming anyone and biology can be complicated. He brought up a woman he is personally aware of with XY chromosomes who has given birth.

I think many folks have gotten the impression the birth certificate is a holy document, when in practice it is intended to be functional and representative. Outside of philosophical arguments or biological taxonomy, I’d like to offer what we do for adopted youth. We can get non-biological parents on a birth record because it may reflect intended role and legal guardianship, even though they aren’t biologically related. That’s what we’re doing for trans people amending sex.

I agree a doctor should make that consideration, but we already have evidence the process is so restrictive that less than .1% of trans individuals have corrected records. (This is extrapolating from committee information and population surveys.)

I propose an amendment to keep this bill in line with binary sex and solve an observed problem for trans populations within our state to access correct legal documentation. I’m thrilled our representatives have brought this issue to the committee's attention to solve and I feel two years of hormonal treatment will cause equally permanent physiological sex based changes to satisfy the bill carriers desire to stop “gender based” identification. I would offer a “Do Pass” on amendment.

Otherwise, I believe that this should continue to be kept within our Division of Vital Records to make the assessments they determine are necessary within their work.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler