Gender X Bill Hearing Preparation
Joint Committee on Transportation | 6.24.21 at 2:00 pm

We just learned that a public hearing on the Gender X Bill (S.2282/H.3521), a MassEquality priority bill, will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2021, starting at 2:00 pm. The hearing will be virtual and conducted via Microsoft Teams, before the MA legislature's Joint Committee on Transportation. **There are two ways to use your voice to support the Gender X Bill: either by providing oral testimony during the hearing or by submitting written testimony in advance of (or immediately following) the hearing.** Read more below about the Bill and the process of submitting testimony, or click here for a template to get started.

ABOUT THE GENDER X BILL

The Gender X Bill (S.2282/H.3521) will allow Massachusetts residents to use the gender marker "X," instead of "M" (male) or "F" (female), on state identification. While the RMV began allowing residents to choose an "X" marker on driver's licenses last fall, this change was just administrative (not protected by law) and did not apply to all forms of ID, such as birth certificates. The lack of a gender-neutral marker for those who identify with a gender other than male or female increases levels of gender-based mistreatment and other negative outcomes. You can read more here about how the lack of gender-neutral markers is negatively impacting transgender and non-binary individuals.

Note: The Senate version of the bill is more comprehensive than the House bill, which simply codifies the RMV's changes into law. The Senate version, S.2282, will ensure that birth certificates and all state forms and documents also offer the "X" option.

ORAL TESTIMONY

- **Advance registration is required to present oral testimony.** You must register here in advance of the hearing.
- Once you register, you will receive further instructions, including information on how to call in to the Microsoft Teams meeting. You will need to be available throughout the entire afternoon, as our bill falls in the middle of a long list of bills and the schedule will depend on how long earlier bills take. **Expect to be "on-call" from 2pm-5pm.**
- **Oral testimony must be delivered in 3 minutes or less.**
- We strongly encourage oral testimony from members of the community or allies who can personally speak to the importance of providing an X gender marker option on IDs and the need to standardize this option, so that all IDs, from driver's licenses to birth certificates, allow you to choose an X.
- If you are interested in providing oral testimony and want additional support or guidance, please email MassEquality's Policy Coordinator ASAP and we can arrange a time to connect in advance of the registration deadline: abigail@massequality.org

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

- **Written testimony can be any length, but is preferably 1-2 pages.**
- **You do not need to attend the hearing to submit written testimony.** Written testimony can be submitted after the hearing and **any testimony submitted by Thursday, June 24 at 5:00 pm will be considered**.
- Download a written testimony template here, with boilerplate text, prompts to personalize your testimony, and instructions for submitting it.

- Your name, the bill title, bill number(s), and your position should all be easily identifiable for someone glancing over the testimony. It can be helpful to bold important information.
- Once you have completed your written testimony, please email your testimony to Kirsten.Centrella@mahouse.gov, with the subject line “Transportation Committee Testimony - Testimony in Favor of H.3521/S.2282.”

“Giving testimony is one of the most effective ways to educate legislators and policymakers about the impact, either positive or negative, that proposed legislation or legislative change might have. **Legislators and other policymakers aren’t always aware of all the implications a particular piece of legislation may have on their constituents**.” - *The Citizen Advocacy Center*