

February 7th, 2023

Dear Representative Wilson and House Judiciary members,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers Michigan Chapter, I am writing in support of House Bills 5300-5303, which will facilitate the legal name change process, update birth certificates, and improve access to accurate identification documents for transgender and non-binary individuals.

Trans or non-binary people often experience discrimination related to identification documents, which leads to avoiding situations in which they need to show someone an ID for fear of violence. Additionally, any non-binary or gender non-conforming people have never had an ID that accurately reflects their gender. Being able to have a choice like this can provide some safety and comfort.

While the bills cover a series of proposals made this summer that aim to make it easier and less costly for Michiganders to change their name on official documents and have gender markers that best embody how they identify, the changes would also foster a more inclusive, accepting, and safer Michigan for ALL Michiganders,

This legislation will help create a state that empowers its citizens to be who they are. I urge all members of this committee to support this bill package.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melina Brann  
Director of Policy & Advocacy  
National Association of Social Workers - Michigan