

## SUPPORT HB 1785

## SUPPORT MODERNIZATION OF THE VITAL RECORDS ACT

Sponsors: Harris, Cassidy, Currie, Guzzardi, Welch, Yingling, Soto, Ford, Tabares, Williams, Ammons, Gabel, Wallace, Feigenholtz, Mah, Lang, Fine, Stratton, C Mitchell, Chapa LaVia, Harper

HB 1785 updates Illinois law regarding birth certificates to fit *current medical standards* and the *standards used by the federal government and a growing number of states*.

- Since 1955, Illinois has recognized that people should be allowed to correct the gender marker on their birth certificates. The 60 year old requirement for surgery to correct a gender marker on a birth certificate needs to be updated to instead require clinically appropriate treatment.

HB 1785 makes Illinois vital records law consistent with the standards used by the federal government and a growing list of states.

- The federal government *does not require surgery* to correct the gender marker for passports, consular reports of birth abroad, green cards, naturalization certificates, and social security records and instead requires proof of clinically appropriate treatment.
- Fourteen states (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington) and the District of Columbia no longer require surgery to correct the gender marker on a birth certificate.

The American Medical Association and American Psychological Association support conforming birth certificate policies to current medical standards.

HB 1785 reduces the serious risks of discrimination, harassment, embarrassment, and assault people born in Illinois face by making it possible for them to correct their core identification document – their birth certificate – so that it matches their identity and appearance.

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HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

American Psychoanalytic Association

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Howard Brown Health

Illinois Psychiatric Society

Illinois Psychological Association

National Association of Social Workers – Illinois Chapter

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