



February 6, 2024

Michigan House Judiciary Committee
124 N Capitol Ave, Room 521
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Written Testimony in Support of Michigan H.B. 5300, H.B. 5301, H.B. 5302, and H.B. 5303

Dear Chair Breen,

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign's more than three million members and supporters nationwide, thousands of whom live in Michigan, we thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to help inform your deliberation on H.B. 5300, 5301, 5302, and 5303. We strongly support this legislation, and it is our hope that the committee will advance it.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBTQ+ citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. HRC believes that each of these pieces of legislation are important measures to ensure that all people are able to have government documents that reflect their true name and align with their gender identity.

Because the need for identity documents is so ubiquitous - needed not only to drive, but to register to vote, open a bank account or get a mortgage, enroll in school and myriad other mundane daily activities - it is especially important to have those identity documents reflect someone's identity and presentation. Having outdated identities can hurt transgender people - in fact, transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary people with incongruent identity documents frequently experience violence and discrimination. That discrimination is all too real: the 2015 United States Transgender Survey (USTS) found that only 11% of respondents reported that all of their IDs had the name and gender they preferred, while more than two-thirds (68%) reported that none of their IDs had the name and gender they preferred.¹ Nearly one-third (32%)

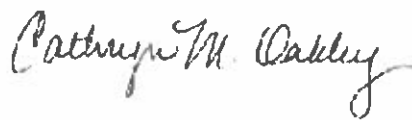
¹"2015 U.S. Transgender Survey Report." *National Center for Transgender Equality*, National Center for Transgender Equality, 17 Dec. 2015, www.ustranssurvey.org/reports/#2015report.

of respondents who have shown an D with a name or gender that did not match their gender presentation were verbally harassed, denied benefits or services, asked to leave, or assaulted.²

Over 20 states and Washington D.C. enable residents to indicate their gender on their driver's license as M, F, or X. Over 15 states and Washington D.C. enable residents to indicate their gender on their birth certificate as M, F, or X. In 2021, the U.S. Department of State issued the first U.S. passport with an 'X' gender designation which now allowing non-binary, intersex, and gender non-conforming citizens to obtain passports accurately reflecting their gender identity.

The enactment of these three bills will make meaningful improvements to the ability of transgender people to access identity documents that are consistent with who they truly are. Additionally, these bills send a clear, concise and firm message that Michigan will support the notion that all people deserve to have government documents that align with their gender identity. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony, and we request that you swiftly pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathryn M. Oakley".

Cathryn Oakley
Senior Director, Legal Policy
Human Rights Campaign

²“2015 U.S. Transgender Survey Report.” *National Center for Transgender Equality*, National Center for Transgender Equality, 17 Dec. 2015, www.ustranssurvey.org/reports/#2015report.