

Good morning, my name is Alex Range and I'm here to speak about the grueling process I went through to get my name legally changed. I came out as nonbinary a year ago and while I was lucky enough to have supportive parents, we had no idea how much time, money, and effort would be required in order for me to live as my true self. We started the process in April, had the court hearing scheduled for May, and as of right now I am still in the process of getting my name corrected on certain accounts and documents. I feel that a lot of places claim to support the LGBTQ community but don't do anything meaningful such as prioritizing name changes for transgender and nonbinary people and making the process fast and simple. Also, the amount of proof needed in order to change my name on certain documents is ridiculous. For example, I still haven't gotten my Social Security card corrected because they ask for an original birth certificate and ID as well as a court order proving that the name change is legitimate. They claim that they'll send these things back but how can I trust that they won't get lost? The biggest barrier I faced throughout this whole process was the cost. In total, my family paid close to \$400 and while we were able to make it work, this isn't manageable for the majority of people. Half of the cost was just to publish my hearing in the local newspaper as well as the legal journal, which I honestly didn't even want. Another \$150 was used just to process my petition at the courthouse. The rest went towards correcting my birth certificate and getting a new ID. I feel that these services should at the very least be lowered, and the publication should be free or even optional. While I'm extremely grateful that I'm now legally recognized as Alex Quinn Range, it was a financially and emotionally draining process for me and my family and it needs to change.