Hi, my name is Camille Snare and I use they/them/their as pronouns. I’m a non-binary college student enrolled at [the] York College of Pennsylvania. I am here today to tell you about my experience in my journey to get my name and legal marker changed. As of now, I have not yet begun the process due to financial cost and the need for a lawyer with regard to navigating the process with naturalized immigration status. Many young people can’t afford to start the process of changing their name due to the cost which can be about $600 and if a person is in a similar situation with the added factor of immigration documents it can be about $900. To be fair there are programs that will help with the costs however, most of the time these programs are in large cities like Philadelphia or Pittsburgh which limits these opportunities from people living in most of the state.

For me, being able to get my legal documents updated with markers that reflect the way I present myself will ensure at least some more peace of mind and keep me safe to some degree-- as I am aware that due to certain other identities I hold I will not be completely safe in the world. With the current state of my ID and papers, there is a greater risk of me beingouted in public spaces or with law enforcement interactions-- just as some examples. Not every bar, club, tattoo parlor, or other space in which an ID is required is going to be welcoming to transgender and gender non-conforming folks like myself.

Also making the name and gender marker change accessible, affordable, and easy would improve the lives and transitions of many transgender and GNC Pennsylvanians. This would greatly impact and improve people’s ability to feel comfortable and safe without the persistent fear of being outed-- especially for the most marginalized transgender and GNC people, most significantly Black transgender women.

Please use what you’re hearing today to improve the process of name and gender marker changes in the state and hopefully you’ve taken something from having young adults and youth like myself speak today. Thank you for listening and inviting me to speak today, it is an honor to advocate for transgender and GNC Pennsylvanians.