

[name]
[organization, if representative of an organization]
[address]

[date]

The Honorable [full name], Judge
[formal court name]
[address]

Dear Judge [last name],

My name is [name], and I am writing on behalf of the person before you today to petition for a change of name and gender marker. The person is legally known as [legal name], and the gender marker on this person's state identification currently is "[gender]."

[why writing: include how long you have known them, consistency in presenting as affirmed gender, and other information supporting their request]

[reason this is important to the petitioner; for example, needs to help with finding a job; may want to include something like "The petitioner has noted that not having the name and gender marker match [his/her] presentation has made it difficult to find a new job because potential employers fill positions with someone else after seeing a mismatched legal name and gender marker."]

[include some background information such as the following]

This experience is not uncommon for persons in the transgender community. In its report *Injustice at Every Turn*, the National Center for Transgender Equality presents findings from the largest survey of transgender persons to date: 6,450 persons across the United States and its Territories. Under the discussion of employment, the data indicates substantial disparities for transgender and gender nonconforming persons: double the rate of unemployment, 47% adverse job outcomes and 26% losing a job because of gender identity, and poverty levels (15% of respondents reported incomes of less than \$10,000/year) nearly four times that of the general population.

The study also showed that successful employment is related to matching identity documents. Of those transgender persons making \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year, only 23% have no matching documentation; whereas 51% of those making under \$10,000 per year have not been able to update documentation. Among those who have transitioned to their affirmed gender and have an updated name and gender marker on their driver's license, 52% report hiring discrimination; without an updated driver's license, the rate jumps to 64%. Likewise, when renting or buying a home, 20% of those with matching documentation report being denied a home or apartment; the rate rises to 32% for those without matching documentation.

[Petitioner] is a competent [man/woman] who is well established in [his/her] affirmed identity. I believe it is in the best interests of not only [petitioner], but of the State and society to allow the change requested in this petition. I also believe that it will be detrimental to [petitioner's] health and livelihood to deny these changes, and that doing so will interfere with the "unalienable rights" identified in the United States

Declaration of Independence as endowed of all human beings, the right to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

Respectfully,

[signature]

[name]

[organization if signing as a representative of an organization]

[birth date and contact telephone number if signing as an individual]