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By not allowing transgender individuals to update their gender markers, the dept of state is placing US Citizens in potential danger outside our borders. For example, a trans woman who has received surgery and has been on hormones for a significant length of time might be flagged by foreign border control agents when the woman is forced to use a passport that has her legal name, paired with a gender marker of Male. This would unnecessarily open that individual up to harassment, violence, imprisonment, or even death. Likewise, they may struggle with harassment from our own border control when re-entering our country. This places an undue burden on the citizen. Also, this may present issues when traveling with certain medications that are needed by the citizen, as hormones are often injected weekly, requiring the citizen to bring syringes and medication with them on extended travel. This is placing an undue burden on this minority group of citizens. In effect, it removes their right to travel out of the country.

I urge that the government rethink the decision to deliberately expose the transgender/nonbinary community to danger just for being who they are.