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The purpose of a passport, according to the US State Department (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/about-us.html>), is a ticket and identification card for international travel, indicating the traveler's identity and nationality. The identification information provided on the card includes the traveler's legal name as well as their state of residence (as in the USA), and the traveler's date of birth. All of these identification markers should be sufficient for identifying a traveler. The incorporation of the individual's gender does not add significant differentiation the way a date of birth or full name would.

Furthermore, any inclusion of gender/sex markers on a passport may cause undue harm on a woman who may not appear (to an agent reviewing the passport) "female enough" resulting in possible search of her person to ascertain whether or not her presentation and the way she is perceived matches her body, which is a violation of her privacy.

Additionally, Real IDs follow state jurisdictions and some states may allow for transgender identity or "x" gender on their identification, which creates a discord between a federal document (passport) and a state document which is used for travel between states. The potential conflict of information will cause inefficiencies in airports and will require additional operational procedures, trainings, and protocols for resolving potential conflicts or issues.

E.O. 14168 indicates a desire to return to "ordinary and longstanding" truths about assigned sex at birth, limited to male and female, which does not reflect actual scientific understanding of genetics, chromosomes, and internal sense of gender. The American Medical Association (the ethical and professional governing body for medical professionals) the American Psychiatric Association (which is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders), the American Psychological Association (the ethical and professional governing body for psychologists), the National Association of Social Workers (the ethical and professional governing body for social workers), and the American Counseling Association (the ethical and professional governing body for mental health counselors) are in unanimous agreement about the scientific and psychological basis of intersex and transgender identities. All of these scientific and evidence based practitioners agree that transgender identity is real and that denying the existence of trans- or expansive gender identity is life-threatening to transgender individuals. Furthermore, labeling sex as limited to male and female leaves out intersex individuals and completely negates their biological and genetic reality.

Additionally, restrictions on who can change their name or sex on a passport will hurt numerous cis people as well. Women may not be able to get a passport following a legal name change (for example after being married). People who have had mistakes made on their passport or birth certificate may legally be stuck as that sex, meaning, someone with male genitalia who has had F mistakenly marked on documents would be unable to change it, and vice versa.

These changes are harmful to the American people, and serve no purpose outside of attacking an already marginalized community at the expense of others.

I am a cisgender male. When I was born my doctor mistakenly marked F. Not being able to fix this would have been ridiculous and harmful.