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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to U.S. passport documents under the executive order "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government." This mandate, requiring the collection of "biological sex at birth," risks further harm to transgender and intersex individuals and deepens existing barriers they already face in society.

The proposal reflects a binary, limited understanding of sex and gender. It disregards the lived experiences of transgender and intersex individuals, reducing them to outdated medical categories that don't represent their authentic identities. Transgender people, particularly those in transition, already face significant challenges with misgendering, harassment, and violence. By reintroducing a "biological sex at birth" label, this change would further stigmatize them and create even more barriers to equality and access.

The personal experience of transgender individuals show the difficulties caused by documents that don't reflect their true identity. Each time they travel or interact with government systems, they risk discomfort, discrimination, and even unsafe situations because their documentation does not align with their gender presentation. This proposed change would only exacerbate these issues, leaving transgender individuals vulnerable to even greater harm.

Intersex individuals, who are born with physical sex characteristics that don't fit typical definitions of male or female, would also be disproportionately affected. The designation of "biological sex at birth" would not only misrepresent their lived experiences but further stigmatize them by reducing their identities to medical terms that are not always relevant or reflective of their reality.

Moreover, this policy would disproportionately impact transgender and intersex people of color, who already face greater systemic barriers to healthcare and equal treatment. For those who are unable to afford medical transition or update their documents, this policy would add additional hurdles that may prevent them from accessing essential services or engaging with government processes.

Instead of reinforcing outdated categories, I urge the government to adopt policies that allow individuals to self-identify their gender on official documents. Such policies would honor the dignity and identity of all people, ensuring that their gender expression is respected and accurately represented, free from unnecessary bureaucratic interference.

The federal government should prioritize respect for all citizens. By implementing this policy, the government would not only harm transgender and intersex individuals but also set a dangerous precedent that undermines the principles of fairness and human dignity.

In conclusion, I urge the government to reconsider this harmful proposal and adopt an approach that respects the gender identities of all individuals. It is essential that we move toward a future where their identities are affirmed and where all individuals, regardless of gender or sex characteristics, are treated with dignity and respect.