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Comments Received :

The purpose of a passport is to verify the identity and citizenship of the holder, typically at ports of entry or more broadly when such things are needed to be verified. The definitions set out in the executive order, specifically those identifying the ability to produce a particular gamete as the determining factor to establish what sex/gender marker is used on the passport serves no purpose in aiding this process. Furthermore, the president holds no authority to override the standards of care established by medical boards in declaring gender as no different than sex, and no authority over the English language writ large to declare the two words interchangeable. This is a dangerous proposal that will expose many Americans, including those assigned female at birth, to potential inappropriate screenings, possible assault, and slower and more invasive airport security lines. A transgender man, with full facial hair and otherwise masculine appearance who presents a passport with an F gender marker will raise questions and require additional screenings. Other women that are not transgender but don't fit stereotypical definitions of feminine may be subject to similar issues. If the executive branch is truly worried about the use of language in a way they do not like, it would be more appropriate to remove the marker entirely. Birthday, citizenship, name, and place of birth are vital to assuring identification, not a letter meant to indicate what genitals you have. I have never once had to show my genitals at customs in any of the dozen or so countries I've visited.

Additionally, this process steps on the toes of states that have already enacted Real ID issuance and have established their own processes for changing gender markers, many of which have required physician verification or court orders. If a transgender individual has already met the requirements of their state, why should the state department invalidate that?