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I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the DS-11 form, which are discriminatory, unnecessary, and harmful. By replacing the term “gender” with “sex” and requiring applicants to list their biological sex at birth, these revisions disregard the identities of transgender and nonbinary individuals. This policy does not improve security or administrative efficiency—it only creates unnecessary obstacles for those whose legal and medical documents already reflect their true identity.

The current system allows individuals to accurately identify their gender, aligning with international standards and ensuring that all citizens can travel safely and with dignity. Forcing applicants to conform to outdated and exclusionary definitions serves no purpose beyond singling out transgender people for additional scrutiny and hardship. These changes do not reflect a need for clarity or consistency in identification but rather a deliberate effort to undermine the rights of a marginalized group.

At a time when many nations are recognizing gender identity in official documentation, these revisions place the U.S. out of step with global human rights progress. Instead of implementing policies that isolate and endanger individuals, the government should focus on ensuring accessibility, fairness, and respect for all passport applicants.

I urge the Department to reject these changes and maintain a passport system that reflects and affirms the identities of all Americans. These revisions are not about security or practicality—they are about exclusion, and they should not be implemented.