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I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the DS-5504 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 erase the identities of transgender and nonbinary individuals, forcing them to carry identification that does not reflect who they are. This policy serves no practical purpose other than to stigmatize and marginalize an already vulnerable community.

The existing system, which allows individuals to accurately identify their gender, aligns with international standards and best practices. The proposed changes introduce unnecessary barriers, making it more difficult for transgender individuals to obtain accurate documentation and increasing their risk of discrimination while traveling. These revisions do not enhance security, nor do they improve the efficiency of passport processing. Instead, they impose bureaucratic hurdles that single out and harm a specific group of people.

Furthermore, these changes align the U.S. with regressive policies rather than with global norms that recognize gender identity in official documentation. At a time when many nations are expanding protections for transgender individuals, this shift represents a backward step that undermines human rights. The government should be working to ensure that all citizens can travel safely and with dignity, rather than using administrative processes to impose an exclusionary ideological agenda.

I urge the Department to reject these harmful revisions and uphold a passport system that respects and affirms all Americans. These changes are not about security or efficiency—they are about discrimination, and they should not be implemented.