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Comments Received:

I strongly oppose any proposed changes that would reduce the ability of citizens to request a passport an efficient, honest, and coherent way.

If citizens are unable to request a passport with the appropriate gender marker, the document will be out of sync with their other vital documents. It will expose them to undue scrutiny at passport control and other identity-verification steps, including abroad where they may have fewer legal resources with which to resist abuse from foreign officials. Documents bearing a gender marker that does not match their plain gender presentation might deny them access to lodging, official services, or medical care. It creates excuses for corrupt officials, or anyone else in a position of power, to abuse our citizens.

The Department, if it pursues the obviously amoral and unethical course proposed in this regulation, will cause irreparable harm to American citizens. It will put American citizens at risk at home, and around the globe, undermining its core constitutional duty to the public. This proposed change must not proceed.