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I am so fortunate not to be a transgender person because I can only imagine how difficult it must be to have to go through the process of discovering that your gender identity does not conform with many people's presumed expectations of who you are and what gender role you must assume, the challenges faced in transitioning into who you truly are and getting your friends and loved ones to respect and recognize you for that, and then after all of that, constantly having to prove the authenticity of your identity to a society and a government that seems primed to deny your existence and deny your rights. A transgender person lives their life as the gender of their trans identity, appears and operates as that gender, and so if we are to use identification records as they are intended, to accurately identify these individuals, then we must allow them to select the gender marker that aligns with their transgender identity as opposed to their sex at birth. No good comes from forcing transgender people to use their biological sex on identification documents. Not only does it deny them the right and privilege to be recognized as existing authentically within our country, but it also renders the identification documentation useless. A transgender person is going to be visually represented by the gender they identify as, not as their biological sex, and so having their documentation indicate something that does not reflect their reality and the reality that is perceivable to everyone else provides no merit aside from othering trans people. You need only look at the incredible work that has been done by the psychiatric community to see that moves like these only serve to dehumanize transgender people, which comes with the very real consequence of loss of life due to suicide. And while it is true that not all transgender people will choose to end their lives if they are not allowed to identify as their trans identity on identification documents, it is most certainly a fact that the move to deny them this right will result in pain, suffering, and suppression for transgender people in this country. We say we are a country that values life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all. Our legislative actions must reflect our virtues, lest we forget what makes America great in the first place. We cannot say that we as a nation protect the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness if we deny these rights to transgender people. Some people would prefer to politicize this issue to obfuscate what really comes down to something as simple as right and wrong. Please do the right thing and allow transgender people to indicate the gender they identify as on identification documentation and do not force them to be identified by a biological sex that does not reflect who they are and only serves as a haunting reminder that our government chooses not to protect their rights and freedoms in this country.