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I am writing to comment on the proposed changes to Application for a U.S. Passport.

Many states legally permit individuals to change their gender marker via court order. These court orders require multiple hearings as well as evidence that the individual is living as a specific gender. In my case, I went in front of a judge twice and proved to her sufficiently that I am a man. My gender was thus ordered changed on all legal documents. On all of my legal documents, including my birth certificate and social security, I am a legally a man.

Preventing individuals from applying for passports with changes to gender markers poses a serious issue for the state department. Individuals who have changed their gender markers legally in their home states will not be able to have accurate Federal-level documentation. Such is the case for me, a transgender man who legally changed his gender marker to M in 2019. I cannot safely have two pieces of government identification that do not match.

Additionally, transgender people are at a high risk of violent crime based on their gender. Many transgender people, like me, resemble their gender and not their birth sex. For example, i have a mustache and a beard and a deeper voice. I do not resemble a woman in the slightest. Yet having a passport with the wrong gender marker (F) on it would put me at risk of violence based on my transgender status.

I am additionally concerned by accounts I have read of individuals having their legal documents confiscated by the state department. This is a violation of these individuals' rights.