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As a person assigned female at birth who typically registers to others as a ciswoman, I have not personally felt the need to change my gender marker to align with my identity. However, in the few rare instances where my presentation has been such that people are confused as to how to address me (stumbling over Sir/Ma'am, apologizing as they fumble over pronouns), I have been made aware of how precarious public perception of gender is and how superficial and arbitrary judgements about it can be. Having heard from a number of friends, colleagues, and acquaintances as to how they have experienced harassment over perceptions that their passport's gender marker does not match their physical appearance, I find the suggested changes to passport forms worrying, and I wish to strongly voice my opposition to their adoption.

I can see no purpose that these alterations serve save to create additional burdens and potentialities for harassment--not only trans people--but for anybody perceived as gender nonconforming. Women, in particular, who are so routinely scrutinized for their failures to live up to specific presentations of femininity, will be put at additional risk by this harassment, in contrast to the phrasing of E.O. 14168 that has instigated this change. This change will inevitably draw legal challenges, waste government resources in addressing said challenges, create additional drags on efficiency, and ultimately only affect a very small number of citizens for the sake of scoring irrelevant ideological points. It is my belief that prior rules for passports were adequate and do not need to be readjusted. I hope that the State Department will take public comment on these proposed changes into consideration, along with the present medical and scientific consensus on gender identity, with regards to these alterations.