

**Author Full Name :** Keith Keydel**Received Date :** 02/20/2025 04:22 PM**Comments Received :**

The Department of State's measure DS-11, which mandates the inclusion of an applicant's biological sex at birth on passport applications, is a regressive and discriminatory policy. This measure disregards the identities of transgender, intersex, and non-binary individuals, forcing them to conform to a binary system that does not reflect their true selves. By eliminating the "X" marker, the policy not only invalidates the existence of non-binary and gender non-conforming people but also subjects them to potential scrutiny, harassment, and discrimination. This move undermines the progress towards inclusivity and equality, and it places unnecessary burdens on individuals who already face significant societal challenges.

Furthermore, the requirement to disclose one's assigned gender at birth is irrelevant to the primary function of a passport, which is to establish identity and citizenship for international travel. The inclusion of such personal and sensitive information serves no practical purpose and only perpetuates stigma and exclusion. Passports should reflect an individual's current, lived identity, not an outdated and potentially distressing aspect of their past. The measure DS-11 is a step backward in the fight for human rights and equality, and policies must be designed to respect and affirm the diverse identities of all citizens.