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I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the DS-5504 form, which would limit the ability of transgender individuals to correct their name and gender marker on their passport. Name changes and gender corrections are fundamental legal rights that should not be restricted by unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

Requiring additional documentation for name or gender changes, beyond existing legal court orders or ID documentation, creates an undue burden that disproportionately impacts marginalized communities. Many transgender individuals already struggle to access legal name change processes due to financial, legal, and systemic barriers. Increasing these barriers only serves to delay or prevent individuals from obtaining accurate identification, further endangering their well-being.

Additionally, restricting gender corrections contradicts international best practices and places the U.S. at odds with modern human rights standards. Many countries now allow self-attestation of gender without requiring invasive medical proof, recognizing that legal identity should align with lived identity.

Finally, these changes will increase administrative burdens on government agencies, leading to delays, appeals, and potential legal challenges, costing taxpayers more in the long run. There is no compelling reason to implement these changes beyond ideological discrimination, which is not an acceptable basis for public policy.

I urge the Department of State to reject these changes and instead prioritize policies that respect individual dignity, privacy, and equality under the law.