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I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the DS-82 passport renewal form that would limit the ability of transgender and nonbinary individuals to update their gender marker in line with their lived identity. These changes would create undue hardship for thousands of Americans who need accurate identification to safely and legally travel.

Previous policies allowing for gender marker updates without invasive medical documentation were based on expert guidance from major medical organizations and aligned with international best practices set by countries such as Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Forcing individuals to retain an incorrect gender marker not only violates personal privacy rights but also exposes them to potential harassment, discrimination, and danger when traveling or using their passport for identification.

Additionally, these restrictions will disproportionately impact transgender youth and first-time applicants who may need to correct their gender marker as part of their transition process. The U.S. should be making passport renewal more accessible, not more restrictive, particularly when so many agencies already recognize self-attested gender identity without requiring unnecessary documentation.

Forcing individuals to carry a passport that does not reflect their identity is a violation of human dignity and a step backward for civil rights. I urge the Department of State to reject these changes and uphold inclusive and evidence-based policies.