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I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the DS-11 passport application that remove the ability for individuals to select a gender marker that aligns with their identity. The previous policy, which allowed for an "X" marker and self-attestation of gender, aligned with international standards and best practices for inclusivity.

These changes violate the right to personal autonomy and disregard scientific and medical consensus on the existence of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Psychological Association (APA) recognize that gender identity is distinct from assigned sex at birth and that restrictive policies harm public health and safety.

Furthermore, this proposal contradicts Supreme Court precedent, including *Bostock v. Clayton County* (2020), which affirmed that discrimination on the basis of gender identity is prohibited under sex-based protections. By enforcing a definition of sex that disregards legal precedent and medical expertise, the Department of State exposes itself to legal challenges and administrative inefficiencies that will burden taxpayers.

Passports are vital for travel, employment, and identity verification. Restricting accurate gender markers endangers transgender and nonbinary individuals, who may face additional scrutiny, harassment, and even denial of entry at border checkpoints. This change will also complicate security processes by creating discrepancies between passports and other legal documents.

I urge the Department of State to maintain current gender marker policies and reject any changes that would roll back progress on gender inclusivity.