

Author Full Name : Heather Havens**Received Date :** 02/20/2025 08:15 PM**Comments Received :**

Extensive research indicates that biological sex is not a binary male-female phenomenon. Rather, biological sex exists on a spectrum. Research also indicates that gender identity is different from biological sex and is likewise influenced by complex psychosocial and physiological factors. Removing the X marker or other gender neutral options from passport renewal and application forms compels intersex and transgender people to select a binary option that may not reflect the complexity of their biological sex or gender identity. This can cause significant and unnecessary psychological distress for these individuals. I therefore request that the Department of State retain the option to mark X as a gender option on passport application and renewal forms. Doing so will provide a more accurate representation of an individual's gender identity.