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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rules preventing transgender individuals from obtaining legal documentation correctly listing their gender. This policy is not only discriminatory, impractical, and arbitrary, but also undermines the fundamental rights and dignity of transgender individuals.

Forcing transgender individuals to carry passports that do not match their gender identity increases their risk of harassment, discrimination, and even violence. It can also lead to unnecessary scrutiny and challenges when traveling, putting them at heightened risk during border checks and security screenings.

More practically: gender markers on passports are meant to facilitate identification, not to enforce binary notions of sex. Numerous countries have successfully implemented inclusive gender marker policies (e.g., "X" for non-binary individuals) without compromising security. The U.S. should continue to align with international best practices rather than imposing restrictive, outdated requirements.

I urge the Department of State to reject these proposed rules and instead continue to support inclusive and accurate gender markers on U.S. passports. Doing so would uphold the values of equality, dignity, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their gender identity.