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Regarding: Application for a U.S. Passport.
OMB Control Number: 1405-0004
Form DS-11

I do not believe the proposed changes to the application for a U.S. Passport (form DS-11) are necessary nor are they aligned with American ideals of freedom or the right to privacy.

I personally know someone, named Emma, who previously spent years living a life that was uncomfortable and inauthentic before finally accepting who she was and living a truer and happier life. She has spent years living as a trans woman, undergone multiple surgeries, and built her life around being herself, with the love and support of her family. With the proposed changes, her passport would now identify her as a man.

What kind of country involves itself in its citizens gender affairs? What kind of government dictates how someone lives their personal life, after years of personal struggle and financial investment? This is so far removed from what we, as Americans, say we stand for.

Do not be mistaken, people who exist outside of the gender binary have existed long before the American government. It is simply not the place of any government to tell people how they can live out one of the most intimate aspects of their lives. To those who think that these proposed changes are anything but a horrible abuse of power, I urge you to consider why we should allow any governing body the right to dictate people's personal affairs. Your private details might not be on trial today but if we allow such an abuse, it could be any one of us tomorrow.

Beyond American ideals, there are real people for whom these proposed changes will be detrimental to. I can't understand who stands to gain from the proposal, other than those who wish to make us believe that we must fear one another and stand divided. As a woman, I do not feel the need to be "protected" from trans people and I object to the idea that I should be afraid of trans folks.

If the government continues to breed division & fear of one another I believe it is America, and every single one of us who lives here & loves this country, who will suffer the most. I hope these changes do not go into effect. It would be a terrible loss for the right to privacy in a country which claims to stand for freedom for all.