Public Comments for ICR 202502-1405-001

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Comments Received :

Changing passport regulations to require listing biological sex at birth or name at birth is absurd, discriminatory, and unnecessary. It creates unnecessary paperwork and a pointless complication to a system which is working fine, targets a tiny minority making travel and the securing of ID documents unnecessarily harder for them without helping anything else, and fails to account for the existence of intersex individuals and bodies that don't conform to rigid ideas of sex, either genetically or anatomically. It will also reduce the usefulness of passports as identifying documents if the passport's description of a person is a mismatch for that person's current appearance and even their current anatomy, leading to unnecessary confusion, processing delays, and wasted costs. Ditto if the passport lists an outdated name that isn't the person's name--name changes have been common with marriage etc. for ages and always helped, not hindered, passport accuracy and utility. If someone looks like a woman, dresses like a woman, lives as a woman, and is identified by everyone around her as a woman, it's much easier to identify that person with a document which says they're a woman, not one which introduces confusion with out-of-date information; the same is true of a man. People and their bodies change over time, and the whole point of updating passports is to keep their identifying information accurate to the current person. There's a reason that passports don't list what color your hair was as a baby, they list the color of hair that's currently growing out of your scalp, the color that actually identifies you. There is no merit to this proposal, nothing it does to improve the functioning of the passport system, rather it would reduce the usefulness of passports, wasting taxpayer money and passport and border agents' time, while having no function other than targeting a vulnerable group (transgender people and insersex people) just for the sake of targeting them. This proposal is motivated by a hateful ideology advancing gender essentialist extremism, not by biology, and not by a desire to protect the security of women or anyone. It does not serve the American people, but is incompatible with America's value of welcoming everyone and everyone equally.