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As a US citizen living overseas, having a valid passport renewal path is of vital importance. I'm a transgender person who had a name and gender change legally carried out by court order many years ago. I know many US citizens in my local community who are in the same situation. All of us are deeply concerned that the administration's exclusionary (and unconstitutional) anti-trans policies will block us from having our passports renewed, causing us to lose our visa status where we reside.

I have already personally heard a report of a trans person locally being denied a routine US passport renewal at the US Embassy, who stated that they could not issue her ANY passport due to the current Executive Order. While I believe that reversing previously performed legal and even court-ordered gender changes during a passport renewal process (via Executive Order) is completely illegal and an affront to the promises of personal liberties guaranteed in the Constitution, I must further state that denying access to ANY passport is beyond the pale, and can directly ruin people's lives.

For example, if during the renewal process my gender marker was changed due to this exclusionary proposal, I would be forced under the regulations of the country I reside in to change my visa status. This scenario would inflict significant and unjust harm on me, causing me to lose access to certain resources, healthcare, and recognized marriage status within the country I reside. Furthermore it could jeopardize my ability to maintain my current visa. Even more dangerous, the outright denial of a passport renewal would irrevocably harm me, causing me to lose my job, my home, and my personal belongings due to deportation.

I have resided in this country for over 10 years, and the threat of blatant discriminatory actions taken by the State Department under Executive Order has loomed large over my life in the past few weeks. I urge the State Department to reject this proposal, allowing trans people, who took legal actions to make their life more livable, to not be harmed and to continue living their lives under the promise of justice and liberty for all.