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I am writing to comment on the proposed revision of form DS-5504, specifically regarding the requirement to list "biological sex at birth" instead of gender. This change is not only unnecessary but also unconstitutional, violating both the Equal Protection Clause and the fundamental rights of transgender Americans. It prioritizes political ideology over the freedom of individuals to self-identify and over established legal precedents recognizing the rights of trans people.

Requiring passport applicants to list "biological sex at birth" serves no legitimate governmental interest. It does not enhance security, streamline identification, or improve efficiency. Instead, it singles out transgender people for discrimination, making it harder for them to travel, access services, and live freely as themselves. Federal courts have repeatedly recognized that arbitrary government restrictions on gender identity are discriminatory and lack legal justification. This policy sets a dangerous precedent of government overreach into personal identity and privacy, contradicting the very principles of limited government and individual liberty that our nation claims to uphold.

Moreover, this policy is in direct conflict with existing medical and legal standards. Medical experts, including the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association, recognize gender as distinct from sex assigned at birth. Many states already allow residents to change the gender marker on identification documents without requiring invasive or unnecessary proof of "biological sex." The federal government's decision to override these state-level policies undermines both states' rights and personal freedom.

Freedom is not about forcing people into narrow, government-imposed definitions of identity. True freedom means allowing individuals to define themselves, make their own choices, and move through society without bureaucratic barriers designed to exclude them. This change to DS-5504 is not about accuracy; it is about control. It is about forcing conformity to a rigid and exclusionary worldview that disregards both science and lived reality.

The U.S. government should not be in the business of policing gender. The Constitution guarantees equal treatment under the law, and this revision to the passport application process fails that test. It serves no purpose but to alienate, disenfranchise, and endanger transgender Americans. I urge the Department of State to reject this change and to uphold policies that recognize and respect all citizens, not just those who fit a narrow and ideologically motivated definition of identity.