

**Author Full Name :** H. Poteat**Received Date :** 02/20/2025 10:27 PM**Comments Received :**

Thank you for opening these changes up for public comment. I am a married woman, and I recently renewed my passport. The process was easy for me. However, I am concerned on behalf of Americans who are intersex or whose legal documents do not identify them as "male" or "female."

The Department of State has already lost a federal discrimination lawsuit, *Zzyym v. Blinken*, regarding the right of an intersex American citizen to hold a passport even if they cannot accurately check a "M" or "F" box. Several other countries provide a third option precisely for this purpose, and as America is the greatest country and the most protective of its citizens, it seems that we would want to lead the world in this regard.

While I recognize that this issue is controversial in today's political climate, the Department of State has already spent a great deal of money over the better part of a decade litigating this question...and lost. The Department has also already spent millions reconfiguring its computer system to enable a third gender marker. The amount of monetary waste proposed by re-litigating a settled issue, plus discarding the software changes, just to renew a contentious discrimination would be shameful. I trust that the Department has more serious concerns to pursue.