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Comments Received :

The purpose of a United States Passport, according to the US State Department, is a document for traveling internationally that provides the person's identity and citizenship. The identification also provided on the includes the person's legal name as well as their state of residence and their date of birth. This information should be more than sufficient for identifying a traveler. The added inclusion of the person's gender does not add anything significant as far as ID goes the way a date of birth or full name would.

In addition, indicating gender or sex markers on a passport may cause, for example, undue hardship on a woman who may not appear "feminine enough" to an official reviewing the passport, which in turn could lead to possible search of her person and belongings to determine whether or not her physical appearance and the way she is viewed matches her body, which is a direct violation of her privacy.

Real IDs follow state jurisdictions and some states may allow for transgender or "x" gender on their identification, which could create a mismatch between a passport or other federal document, and a state document such as a Real ID or driver's license which is used for travel between states. The potential mismatch of information will cause delays and slowdowns in airports and will require additional procedures, trainings, and protocols for resolving any issues that may arise from such differences. Furthermore, this process steps on the toes of states that have already enacted Real ID issuance and have established their own processes for changing gender markers, many of which have required physician verification or court orders. If a transgender individual has already met the requirements of their state, why should the State Department invalidate that?

The wording on E.O. 14168 indicates a desire to return to "ordinary and longstanding" truths about assigned sex at birth, limited to male and female only. This does not reflect the real world, actual scientific understanding and knowledge of genetics, chromosomes, and definitions of gender. Major organizations like the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, and the American Counseling Association are in full unanimous agreement about the scientific and psychological basis of intersex and transgender identities. All of these scientific and evidence based practitioners agree that transgender identity is real and that denying the existence of trans- or expansive gender identity is life-threatening to transgender individuals. Furthermore, labeling sex as limited to male and female leaves out intersex individuals and completely negates their biological and genetic reality.

The only time an individual's assigned sex at birth is relevant information is in the presence of a medical professional and as such the sex notation on a passport should be removed entirely. This affects such a tiny percentage of the overall population, so why is the Federal Government focusing on it? These changes serve no practical purpose and represent a waste of taxpayer money.