

Author Full Name : Audrey Westcott**Received Date :** 02/20/2025 11:36 PM**Comments Received :**

The proposed changes to the passport application, renewal, and correction process to comply with the Defending Women executive order are not helpful and will only increase anxiety for travelers and create confusion for security agents. The purpose of the gender marker on passports is to aid in confirming the passport holder's identity, which is why the State Department has allowed people to list their gender marker in accordance with their gender presentation since the 1990s. There has been no evidence presented that allowing this process for the past 30+ years has ever caused anyone harm or led to an abuse of the system. This proposed change means that trans people will end up with mismatched documents, which vastly increases their risk of being detained at any border for verification. There's no reason to specifically punish these people or waste the time of diligent border agents just trying to do their jobs.