

Author Full Name : Benjamin Lowry**Received Date :** 02/21/2025 12:10 AM**Comments Received :**

As the Department of State considers modifications to the application for passports, it is absolutely critical that this application be inclusive of the trans and non-binary community. Sex, which is a biological characteristic that occurs on a spectrum (i.e., male, female and intersex people) often does not map onto a person's gender identity. As such, it is crucial that people be allowed to apply using the gender they identify as whether that is male, female, another option (often identified as "X" on passports) and that there be no requirement that gender have anything to do with anything other than how the applicant identifies. There is a wide body of research demonstrating that sex and gender both are spectrums. It would be an incredibly damaging precedent to set to say that the United States government is able to pry into its citizens' lives and tell them what gender they should identify as. Moreover, changes to the application restricting the rights of trans, nonbinary, and intersex people would run counter to already established decisions made by the courts (i.e., the *Zzyym v. Blinken* case in Colorado).