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My transgender sister lives abroad and is questioning her ability to travel to the U.S. as a result of these proposed changes. Rewriting the definitions of biological sex and gender identity has the potential to invalidate previously issued U.S. passports, cause disruptions in travel plans, and ultimately undermine the value of the document as a means of identification. This proposal is more than a matter of opinion and can do some serious harm.

The purpose of collecting information on a person's biological sex is unclear in the context of application forms for a U.S. passport. Adding to this is the restriction of only providing two options - male ("M") and female ("F") - which is not reflective of all people that could be making these requests. Intersex individuals, for example, will have trouble providing a correct response for that field. Lastly, biological sex is a nonspecific piece of information, and this can often conflict with one's physical appearance, which greatly reduces the value in collecting and using this information. Other pieces of information, such as date and location of birth, are much more useful for the purposes of a U.S. passport.