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Comments Received:

The proposed changes, an attempt to comply with the "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government" executive order, are both plainly unconstitutional and pointedly cruel. The Supreme Court has already held that discrimination based on gender is unconstitutional under Title VII, and the proposed changes plainly discriminate on the basis of the passport holder's gender. These changes, and the court challenges they will draw, will waste time and taxpayer money before they are inevitably overturned. On top of its illegality, the proposed changes are clearly part of a campaign of discrimination against Trans American citizens and passport holders. Put bluntly, this proposed change is part of an effort to drive Trans citizens out of public life, to restrict their ability to travel (or flee persecution if necessary), and to erase their identity. Similar efforts to reduce a minority's ability to travel are an early hallmark of pogroms against them; similar measures were taken against Jews during World War II and Palestinians in occupied Gaza. If the proposed changes are enacted, Trans Americans will lose their ability to travel freely solely because of their identity. I have rarely seen such efforts to enact cruelty and instill fear in a vanishingly small minority in my life. Any citizen who claims to stand for true freedom and equality would recognize this rank bigotry as anti-American and reject it out of hand.