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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to passport forms DS-11, DS-82, and DS-5504, specifically the requirement to disclose biological sex at birth. As a transgender man born in the US, this change directly harms me by creating unnecessary barriers to accessing accurate identification, increasing the risk of discrimination, and undermining my privacy.

Passports are essential documents used not only for travel but also for employment verification, banking, and other official purposes. Requiring the disclosure of biological sex at birth serves no practical function in identity verification and instead forces transgender individuals like myself to reveal sensitive information. This requirement, rather than enhancing security, exposes us to potential harassment and discrimination, especially given the ongoing societal and legislative challenges affecting transgender people.

I would also like to note that while these changes are presented as a means to protect women by affirming biological definitions, they inadvertently place transgender individuals in an incongruent and harmful position. As someone who is consistently perceived and recognized as a man, the mandate to document my sex assigned at birth misclassifies my identity. This misclassification not only undermines my lived experience but may also force me, in situations where identification is scrutinized, into categories or spaces that are meant for women—spaces in which I do not belong and where my presence is based on a misrepresentation of who I truly am. Such unintended consequences do little to advance the safety and comfort of women and instead compromise the rights and well-being of transgender individuals.

For me personally, having a passport that accurately reflects my identity is crucial for my safety and dignity. I have undergone the necessary legal and medical steps to align my documentation with my gender identity, and I should not be compelled to disclose information that is irrelevant to my actual identity. I urge the Department of State to reconsider these changes and maintain policies that respect and affirm the identities of all Americans without forcing us into outdated and harmful categorizations.

Thank you for considering my comment.