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This proposal claims to return to “ordinary and longstanding” truths about assigned sex at birth, limited to two options (M/F), which does not reflect scientific understanding of genetics, chromosomes, and internal sense of gender. The American Medical Association (the ethical and professional governing body for medical professionals), the American Psychiatric Association (which is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders; <https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/diversity/education/transgender-and-gender-nonconforming-patients/definitions-and-pronoun-usage>), the American Psychological Association (the ethical and professional governing body for psychologists), the National Association of Social Workers (the ethical and professional governing body for social workers; <https://www.socialworkers.org/Practice/LGBTQIA/Sexual-Orientation-and-Gender-Diversity>), and the American Counseling Association (the ethical and professional governing body for mental health counselors; <https://www.counseling.org/about/values-statements/saige-position-statement-on-gender-affirming-healthcare-bans>) are in agreement about the scientific and psychological basis of intersex and transgender identities. These scientific and evidence-based practitioners agree that transgender identity is real and that denying the existence of trans- or expansive gender identity is life-threatening to transgender individuals. Furthermore, labeling sex as limited to male and female leaves out intersex individuals and completely negates their biological and genetic reality.

The purpose of a passport, according to the US State Department (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/about-us.html>), is as an identification card for international travel, indicating the traveler’s identity and nationality. The identification information provided on the card includes the traveler’s legal name as well as their state of residence (as in the USA), and the traveler’s date of birth, all of which is sufficient for identification. The only time an individual’s assigned sex at birth is relevant information is in the presence of a medical professional. The sex notation on a passport should be removed entirely.

These proposed changes will cause unnecessary turmoil for individuals, as well as a bureaucratic nightmare for federal and state facilities. State Real ID gender identification protocols may vary from this federal proposed change (see attached from the state of NJ), creating inconsistencies between two forms of government-issued ID. The potential conflict of information will cause inefficiencies in airports and will require additional operational procedures, trainings, and protocols for resolving potential conflicts or issues. This is an incredible waste of taxpayer money, and antithetical to the concept of limiting spending excess in the government.