

Author Full Name : Danielle Croll**Received Date :** 02/21/2025 01:18 PM**Comments Received :**

I am concerned by and highly disapprove of the proposed changes to US passports in response to EO 14168.

Firstly, the physical changes to passports would require US citizens to renew their passports with the changes, causing unnecessary waste, lack of access to proper disposal of official documents which could lead to identity theft, a potential gridlock in the department as it pertains to creating and issuing these new documents especially as staffing is cut, and either unnecessary spending by the department to revise these documents as the change is not the fault of the citizens, or the unnecessary and unfair spending by citizens to be provided with new documents (which many current passport holders may not be able to afford). It simply does not benefit the State Department, the country, or the individual citizen to make these changes.

Secondly, the proposed change is factually and biologically inaccurate, and any changes to the US passport would physically enshrine unscientific ideological dogma. Biologically speaking, there are more than two sexes: nearly 2% of people are born intersex, or possessing sex traits or genetic information belonging to both male and female sexes. Including only two boxes of M and F would fundamentally exclude all US citizens who genuinely were not born female or male. Additionally, the change to the passport would constitute a violation of the injunction put on State by the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado in the Zzyym v. Blinken case (formerly Zzyym v. Pompeo, Zzyym v. Tillerson, and Zzyym v. Kerry). Legal precedent exists for the protections of intersex and nonbinary people on federal documentation.

Thirdly, the proposed change would not make the US passport any better of a tool for identification. Given that a passport is intended to help demographically identify people as they currently appear (thus the required updates for photos and name changes), it is useless to include a person's sex at birth if they physically appear as, or have the sex traits of, a different sex. If a person has transitioned from male to female, she will physically appear to be a woman. Having her passport check the box as "Male" when she obviously does not appear as such will simply make it more difficult for people on the ground to identify her when told the textual information found on her passport without providing photographs.

Fourthly, these changes will cause incommensurable harm to US citizens. In addition to the cost of a new passport, citizens will incur the monetary and time-related costs of needing to update other official documentation to match the new passport. Mismatched gender identifiers on multiple documents could lead to issues for medical care and lodging while traveling abroad; citizens would also be at risk of abuse by foreign officials, and even domestic officials who would seek to harm a person they believe is transgender. In addition to these difficulties, transgender individuals also would experience severe psychological harm in the form of dysphoria as a result of these form changes.

In short, this change is an unscientific, harmful, unpractical waste of taxpayer money and federal employees' time.

Thank you for your consideration.