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Hello-

I'm concerned about changes to the US Passport forms that will require transgender individuals to be identified by their supposed "birth gender" on their passport.

This will create a substantial new burden on TSA agents, and make our transportation systems less safe and secure, since it will mean that many passports will not accurately describe the persons who are supposed to be bearing them, leading to backup and delay. It will also increase the number of strip searches and body searches experienced by everyone, regardless of gender. "Bathroom bills" in American states have lead to public harassment of women with short hair, for example.

Attempting to bring the passport process into compliance with President Trump's executive order defining gender also runs into the challenge that the executive order is scientifically wrong. Gender differentiation is not immutable from conception, and gender-at-birth does not have a perfect relationship to what chromosomes someone has. For example, there are hormonal conditions in which an XY chromosome pair will develop into a female fetus. This rule change would place the Department of State in the position of "calling balls and strikes" with a wide range of medical conditions, creating excess waste and confusion.

Transgender citizens are simply trying to travel with dignity, like any American. They should be entitled to that from the Department of State.

Yours,

Max Gladstone