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I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent changes to the U.S. passport application process, specifically the replacement of the term "gender" with "sex" on the application for a U.S. passport.

The form now asks applicants to indicate their "sex" by selecting "M" or "F," yet it does not provide guidance on what definition of "sex" is being used.

For me personally, if we used what is on my birth certificate this would require that I put "M" on this application. This directly affects my safety when traveling abroad as it brings up questions in regards to whether or not I am transgender, a status that is illegal in several countries and is harshly discriminated against in several others; including in many states within the United States.

This also raises medical safety concerns in regards to medical emergency documentation. Many medications require different levels of monitoring based off of hormonal differences between men and women. Often times this puts women in more danger to things like heart attacks, blood clots, or other excessive internal bleeding issues. Some medications even have recommendations for decreased or increased dosages based off of sex (most often, hormonal sex). This change to the passport application and the resulting passport would no longer accurately describe my medical reality for emergency situations.

In daily life we make snap decisions when determining individuals sexes. If someone's passport lists "M" at an airport but security sees someone they expect to have an "F" this reduces clarity for how people actually are seen and leads to excess times spent in an airport with increased risk of discrimination.

The executive order reports sex as being determined at conception which is a gross over-simplification of human development that doesn't allow anyone to honestly put "M" on the form without risk of perjury.

In scientific discourse, biological sex is not a singular, straightforward characteristic, it encompasses a range of factors including chromosomal, hormonal, and phenotypical attributes.

The lack of clarity may lead to confusion and misrepresentation, especially for intersex individuals who previously had the option of selecting "X". The reason this was previously changed was due to the Zzyym v. Blinken legal case that was literally about this very form and required that "X" be added as a valid passport option.

The new form does not accomplish the stated goals and should therefore not be implemented.