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I am a Lawyer in Ohio and have worked with Transgender people throughout California, the Heartland, and the Midwest. In all three of those regions, life for transgender people is hard & they often do not receive the support they need from their government. They need specialized medical care; they need protection from discrimination at work, in housing, at school, and in hospitals; they need updated documents to properly exercise their freedoms such as their freedom to vote and their freedom of movement. The US government, at every level, often does not have the infrastructure or understanding to properly assist Transgender people and in some cases discrimination from within the governments can make the problems Transgender people face even more persistent and extreme.

Transgender people exist in the United States. Failing to recognize and account for Transgender people will likely make our already stretched-thin government infrastructures even less equipped to take on the unique challenges of the 21st century and serve the people of the United States, which includes transgender people. Transgender people must be accounted for on all U.S Documents, including passports.

The proposed rule is short-sighted, discriminatory, and cruel. It will make the government run slower, violates the freedoms of transgender Americans, and will make life harder for Americans everywhere. Do not enact this proposed rule.