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I feel strongly that this change to the existing passport renewal process is harmful to all intersex and transgender people, and should not be enacted or supported. Making renewing a passport more difficult for people who are already marginalized makes it more difficult for them to travel, more difficult to show proof of identification upon hire, and more difficult for them to access a variety of services they may need to show identification for.

In this current political moment, people are more emboldened than ever to discriminate against transgender and gender non-conforming people, and this change to the passport renewal process will make it easier for people to do so. Transgender people spend a significant amount of time seeking healthcare and then jumping through hoops for years in order to be allowed to change their gender marker and legal name. They deserve our support, not our judgment and discrimination.

Allowing people to change their gender marker on paper to match their gender presentation does no harm to anyone, yet making it impossible for them to do so puts them in harms way, by outing them whenever they have to show ID. Please do not make this change. Supporting this change supports an increase in anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination and violence, and our country deserves better. Please do not support this change to the passport renewal process.