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Every American should be able to apply for and be granted a passport to travel internationally regardless of their gender identity, and there is no reason to bar people from changing their gender marker on a passport, or to use a gender marker that does not match their gender marker shown on their birth certificate.

Sex assigned at birth is just that, a sex assigned by a doctor based on a cursory visual examination. It does not require anyone to check chromosomes or verify if the child will someday be able to produce ova or sperm. This is a reductive and harmful way to classify people, and could be seen as a modern type of eugenics. When someone is no longer considered a valid person, it's much easier to devalue them and discriminate against them.

Denying transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people the right to a passport that faithfully reflects their updated gender marker is discriminatory and harmful. I feel strongly that this change to the passport application process should not be enacted or supported.

Forcing these already marginalized people to list the incorrect gender marker on their passport will make it more dangerous for them to travel, show proof of identification upon hire, and to access a variety of services such as healthcare that they may need to show identification for.

Allowing people to use the gender marker that aligns with their gender identity on a passport does no harm to anyone, but 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 application process.