

Author Full Name : Marsha Michie**Received Date :** 02/23/2025 02:52 PM**Comments Received :**

I am a social scientist and bioethicist with extensive research experience, and a faculty member at a tier 1 School of Medicine. Requiring US passports to reflect sex assigned at birth serves no purpose related to security of identification, and would instead cause confusion in reliably identifying individuals whose presentation and, often, other identification from US states, local municipalities, and local institutions (such as driver licenses and work IDs) would not match that on their US passport. In addition, it is well-established in scientific literature that individuals suffer measurable negative impacts on their physical and mental health when exposed to social marginalization, including via forcing individuals to carry government-issued identification that does not match their sex and/or gender identity. This finding has been documented generally among transgender individuals (Drabish K, Theeke LA. Health Impact of Stigma, Discrimination, Prejudice, and Bias Experienced by Transgender People: A Systematic Review of Quantitative Studies. *Issues Ment Health Nurs*. 2022 Feb;43(2):111-118). More specifically, having personal identification matching one's sex and/or gender identity has been clearly shown to reduce suicide risk (Bauer GR, Scheim AI, Pyne J, Travers R, Hammond R. Intervenable factors associated with suicide risk in transgender persons: a respondent driven sampling study in Ontario, Canada. *BMC Public Health*. 2015 Jun 2;15:525); and identification documents matching one's presented sex and/or gender identity reduces the risk of other social determinants that can negatively affect health outcomes, such as violence and housing instability (Blosnich JR, Marsiglio MC, Dichter ME, Gao S, Gordon AJ, Shipherd JC, Kauth MR, Brown GR, Fine MJ. Impact of Social Determinants of Health on Medical Conditions Among Transgender Veterans. *Am J Prev Med*. 2017 Apr;52(4):491-498). While negative health impacts on an entire population is reason enough to avoid this proposed change, it is worth noting that transgender and gender-diverse individuals already face significant financial and health burdens due to discrimination and marginalization, and this proposed change is likely to increase the cost to public health and safety net programs for individuals who will suffer increased discrimination in employment and housing and require increased public funds for healthcare and social programs. This change does not protect women, whether cisgender or transgender, and instead increases costs and burdens both for the transgender population and for federal, state, and local governments.