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Title of Information Collection: Application for a U.S. Passport for Eligible Individuals: Correction, Name Change to Passport Issued 1 Year Ago or Less, and Limited Passport Replacement.

OMB Control Number: 1405-0160.

Form Number: DS-5504.

I strongly oppose the proposed rule that would change the DS-5504 form and replace the term “gender” with “sex” as well as request the “applicant's biological sex at birth”.

This policy goes against the well established in the medical field reality that intersex and transgender people exist; by the most conservative estimates, over 5 % of US population are intersex or transgender – this is a significant number of people that will be affected by these changes. Arbitrarily changing existing forms that worked perfectly well up until now is a waste of money and time when the government claims that they are trying to improve efficiency and cut waste. If implemented, this policy will not improve the lives of US citizens in any way: it will not make our country or its citizens safer or more prosperous. On the contrary, it will put the safety of transgender and intersex American citizens while travelling in jeopardy and will cause unnecessary harm by exposing them to invasion of privacy, discrimination and harassment while using their passport to travel internationally.

It is the duty of the US Government to protect all US citizens and this policy is clearly intended to do the opposite.

I urge the administration to reverse this policy and uphold a passport policy that respects the dignity and safety of all US citizens.