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## **Comments Received:**

It is a fact that transgender people exist, whether legally recognized or not. What that looks like varies from person to person, just like all people have their own unique needs and experiences. By forcing people to be issued a legal identification document, especially one intended for international use, that does not align with their expressed and self identified gender, American citizens are placed in greater danger while traveling both domestically and internationally. There is no credible, traceable threat to the nation or its citizens by allowing people to obtain identification documents that accurately portray their identity. Accurate identification is the entire point. There is also the threat of what it means for a group of people who are already at high risk of violence to effectively be erased from federal recognition.

Scientifically speaking, the changes re sex vs gender are also unfounded. Sex is not a binary, it is a bimodal distribution of phenotypical characteristics that are often, but not always, associated with specific genotypes. Intersex people exist at a rate similar to red hair or green eyes (both of which are options on many types of IDs). By forcing citizens to be identified by an assigned sex at birth, without possibility for recognition of intersex conditions (X or a change to M or F if diagnosed later in life) this decision patently disregards reality. Additionally, transgender people who seek medical transition very clearly change their secondary sex characteristics (phenotype) to present outwardly as their gender identity as they move away from their sex assigned at birth. By forcing these citizens to use ASAB, this makes the identification essentially useless. It creates unnecessary incongruencies which require highly invasive questioning for people who are only trying to live and move freely through the world. People who have committed no crime yet will have to disclose personal medical information any time they wish to cross any international border. It forces a high level of risk on people rather than allowing them to choose within their own risk tolerance.

This is a cruel change. The intent is to dehumanize a small, vulnerable group. It provides no real, quantifiable benefit to the federal government but presents great risk to individual American citizens.

https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/16324-intersex

https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/10/its-intersex-awareness-day-here-are-5-myths-we-need-to-shatter/

https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/ncvs-trans-press-release/

"Transgender people (16+) are victimized over four times more often than cisgender people. In 2017-2018, transgender people experienced 86.2 victimizations per 1,000 people compared to 21.7 victimizations per 1,000 people for cisgender people.

Transgender women and men had higher rates of violent victimization (86.1 and 107.5 per 1,000 people, respectively) than cisgender women and men (23.7 and 19.8 per 1,000 people, respectively)."