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As I have the same issue with this proposal, this comment is identical to one I left on proposed changes to DS-11. This is *not* a duplicate comment in error.

The purpose of a passport is to certify that the person holding the passport is who they say they are when traveling. Marking a passport with assigned sex at birth is clearly counter to that goal.

The main issue with this change is that in the case of transgender and potentially intersex passport bearers, the identity of the bearer and the identity presented on their passport will not match. Just as passports are regularly updated to accommodate changes in visual appearance, height, and name so as to match a person's identity, so too must the passport be updated to match gender in order for it to remain an effective tool.

This proposed change will cause unnecessary confusion at border crossings. It could easily result in undue concerns for border security agents who must verify that the passport is not illegitimate, and undue stress for the bearer, who now has to deal with the fear that they might be refused entry due to their identity not matching that of their passport. In a worst case scenario, this may serve as an illegitimate basis for arrest in particularly intolerant nations, either by outing people as transgender in countries which may persecute that identity, or by giving hostile nations the excuse to arrest on the basis of a false ID.

Officially issued documents used for identification must represent a person's identity to be effective, and I oppose this change on the basis that it would cause the US Passport to fail at this basic function.