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Hello,

The proposed changes to this form under the "Defending Women" Executive Order are discriminatory against intersex people and transgender people.

According to the Intersex Society of North America (ISNA), intersex people are those whose sex characteristics do not align with all of the necessary requirements to be assigned "male" or "female" at birth, such as having an extra chromosome (XXY instead of XY or XX) or androgen insensitivity syndrome (https://isna.org/faq/what_is_intersex/). These conditions can cause a person's physical appearance to differ from the "biological fact" of their sex assigned at birth, such as having both a penis and ovaries, or having male sex organs but going through female puberty. In the past, doctors have performed non-consensual surgery at birth to "correct" babies born with some intersex condition, often not consulting or informing the parents. Sometimes a person who didn't know their body was "corrected" to have female sex organs as a baby will later undergo male puberty and have the external appearance of a man. This can lead to hate crimes and discrimination if this person is forced to continue to live as a woman based on their arbitrarily assigned sex at birth.

As such, the change from the Executive Order defining sex as binary, immutable, and happening at conception, is factually inaccurate. Removing the "X" option from the passport and requesting biological sex at birth forces intersex people into an impossible situation. They would have to choose between two options that don't describe the biological truth of their anatomy. This can lead to suspicion and violence from government officials and members of the general public if they believe the intersex person is "lying".

I request that the proposed changes to passport forms in response to the "Defending Women" EO be denied and that the forms be allowed to exist in their current state. Intersex people have existed for hundreds of years (history can be found here: <https://isna.org/faq/history/>), and making these changes now will not erase their existence.

Thank you for your time,
Madeleine