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I am appalled by these policy proposals to damage all U.S. citizens' ability to gain access to state documents.

The new rules regarding passport renewal and restrictions on the ability to change names, gender/sex currently implemented in response to the Trump administration's EO are a severe restriction on the rights of intersex and transgender people nationally, as well as a disaster for all U.S. citizens, discriminating against people on the basis of sex. These policies do not protect women. In fact, these changes serve no clear purpose other than to intimidate and restrict the free movement of transgender and intersex people, while wasting millions of taxpayer dollars to investigate people's genitalia and making passport renewal less efficient for everyone. The wait times for passport renewals has skyrocketed due to this irresponsible and unconstitutional policy change. As someone who travels internationally for both my marriage and my work, I'm deeply concerned by this policy. I fail to understand how this policy does anything other than slow down passport renewal and expose all of us to state sanctioned sexual harassment at airports, government offices, and daily interactions with legal institutions.

This policy is arbitrary and unconstitutional -- not to mention a waste of public time and dollars. This will lead to the harassment of all people, regardless of gender, at state borders, as anyone suspected of being transgender will be subject to invasive scrutiny by guards and police. The state obsession with genitalia is highly inappropriate. A better policy would be to remove gender markers from all state documents altogether and cease wasting citizens' time and money with something as inconsequential as policing the free bodily expression of U.S. citizens: a right protected by the first and fourteenth amendments.

As a scholar of history, it is clear to me that attempts made to restrict minorities' abilities to gain government documents is an act of discriminatory intent. It is not unlike what Germany did to the Jews a century ago, making it more difficult for this marginalized group to escape a violent regime. Stop this inappropriate, capricious policy.