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The proposed changes serve no other purpose other than making it much more difficult for transgender, intersex, and gender non-conforming people to use their passports. Several of my friends and colleagues are transgender. They have repeatedly encountered administrative difficulties in keeping their names and genders consistent across their records. In a workplace setting, this process can be humiliating and frustrating, but at least there are channels to resolve it. Facing such difficulties on a federal level, on the most respected and functional piece of government documentation you can obtain, will have lasting consequences. They are likely to have contradictory identifying information on different IDs, which will only lead to bureaucratic chaos. Furthermore, when they use their passports for travel, they will have to justify why their appearance does not match the sex listed on their documents to security. How will this be resolved for any trans people attempting to travel? They will be put at risk of inappropriate and invasive investigation. What's more, if it becomes standard to scrutinize travelers' apparent gender, cisgender (non-transgender) people will also be more at risk if their appearance does not conform to the subjective notions of the security officers they encounter.

Additionally, there is the issue of intersex people. There are many people who are medically neither men nor women, and will face immediate, intractable issues when attempting to apply for a passport. Take the case of Zzyym v. Blinkin in the Federal Court for the District of Colorado (see attached file). The defendant, Dana Zzyym, is intersex. Their assigned gender at birth was "unknown" due to their ambiguous genitals. Thus when they applied for a passport, they were not able to accurately selected either male or the female option. Despite the fact that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs confirmed their intersex status, their passport application was denied. Zzyym won the suit they filed, giving legal precedent for the irrationality of providing only two gender options. The definitions of sex provided by E.O. 14168 are inadequate and do not account for the biological reality that many people do not fit only under "the sex that produces the small reproductive cell" or the "the sex that produces the small reproductive cell". (To say nothing of infertile cisgender people who may produce neither.)

To cisgender people, the proposed changes to the form produce no benefit whatsoever. They will continue to use the forms in exactly the same manner as before. However, any transgender and intersex people will be directly, explicitly harmed. This is not a reasonable use of my tax dollars. The government should rethink making such an expensive move with only the expressed purpose of hurting its own citizens.