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Comments Received:

The proposed changes to DS-5504 undermine the ability of transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people to obtain passports that reflect their identities. This change is not only unnecessary and discriminatory but also violates the U.S. District Court ruling in Zzyym v. Blinken, which affirmed the right of nonbinary individuals to accurate documentation.

For many transgender people, a passport is one of the only forms of federal identification that accurately reflects their identity. The ability to correct errors or update gender markers has real-life safety implications. Traveling with a mismatched passport increases the likelihood of border harassment, denied entry, and even detention. This is not hypothetical—it happens regularly to trans and nonbinary travelers.

Additionally, this policy erases the reality of intersex people, many of whom do not fit neatly into a binary biological sex category. The State Department's refusal to acknowledge intersex existence contradicts medical science, defies legal precedent, and places intersex individuals in an impossible situation where they cannot obtain documentation that reflects their actual physiology.

There is no legitimate government interest served by these changes. They waste taxpayer money, as the department will inevitably face additional lawsuits for noncompliance with federal court rulings. Instead of re-litigating an issue that has already been decided, I urge the State Department to uphold the dignity, safety, and legal rights of all U.S. citizens by rejecting these changes.