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The proposed changes to DS-5504 are deeply personal to me—not just as a parent, but as someone who has lived through what my child is now experiencing. My transgender daughter is not a controversy. She is a bright, curious, joyful kid who just wants to live her life. She should be spending her time worrying about soccer practice and homework, not whether her government will let her have identification that reflects who she is.

I was a trans child too, but I wasn't allowed to be myself. I was told I was wrong. That I had to change. That I had to hide. I will not let that happen to my child. And yet, this executive order—and these form changes—are forcing my daughter into the same impossible position I faced: either deny herself or risk public scrutiny and danger every time she needs to use her passport. This is cruel, unnecessary, and legally indefensible.

This policy also violates my religious freedom. As a Unitarian Universalist, my faith teaches that every person has inherent worth and dignity, and I am raising my daughter to know that she is loved and valued exactly as she is. But this policy tells her the opposite—that she is not real, that her identity does not matter, and that she must conform to someone else's idea of who she should be. No government should have the power to dictate my faith or my family's values.

Legally, the State Department has already lost this battle. In Zzyym v. Blinken, the court ruled that denying gender marker options on passports is unlawful. Pushing through a policy that is already enjoined is not only discriminatory, but a reckless waste of taxpayer money.

My child deserves to be a kid—not a political target, not a courtroom fight, not a policy debate. Just a kid. I urge you to reject these changes and allow my daughter to live her life without government-imposed barriers to her identity.