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The proposed changes to the passport system, which are currently enacted, are harmful to American citizens and disrupt their right to travel using their legally recognized names and genders. States allow people to change their names and genders and for the federal government to then deny these state courts is to deny the rights of the states to police their citizens in a manner that has traditionally been left to the states. By inserting that the federal government can undermine this determination, states rights are being ignored in an area traditionally left to the states without any compelling financial or other reason that the federal government needs to oversee this issue.

The language of the executive order which lead to this change in policy also is scientifically inaccurate and subjects a small minority of people to legal harm without a determination that they should have their rights removed first. It is a scientific truth that intersex people exist. People are born without clear gender markers or with gender markers which indicate two genders. These people do not need surgery to survive and they do not follow the guidelines of the executive order. They cannot be categorized. The fact that people like this exist is enough proof that this order is harmful and unnecessary.

As the parent of a transgender child, I did not take my child's transition lightly. I fully understand the ramifications of what it means to be transgender. It was horrible to receive a renewed passport for my child which had the correct name, but incorrect gender which did not match the birth certificate submitted. We are scared to travel, worried that we will not be allowed back into the United States if we were to leave because this action indicates animus towards transgender people. Furthermore, my child's passport does not match any other documents which simply creates problems in all aspects of life. The harm of this position is not outweighed by the benefit. American citizens should be treated equally. Their passports should be processed in the same time period and the documents, if valid in the state produced, should be given full faith and credit, and result in a passport that matches the documents submitted. We do not turn to the original birth certificate of adoptees or married people or those who changed their names for fun. There is no cause to treat transgender people differently.

Please reconsider this regulation and treat transgender people and intersex people as American citizens, respecting their free right to travel. And respect the rights of the states to make rules and laws and allow their residents to change their names and genders, as has been allowed for year and years without the federal government's intervention.