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Comments Received:

Holding a US passport is a basic right of US citizens (certain felons, tax scofflaws and debtors being notable exceptions). Denying or delaying a passport application made by trans individuals because of their gender identity infringes on this right. Shoehorning President Trump's Executive Order "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government" into passport applications will deny trans individuals the right to travel freely and do nothing to restore truth to the federal government. Additionally, trans people will be denied a vital piece of identification. The US State Department has no business incorporating political propaganda into applications for vital documents such as passports. As a US citizen and a woman with trans relatives and friends, I know that denying trans people their basic human rights does nothing to defend me in any way. Women would be better protected if the State Department stamped the passports of male clergy, sports coaches and Hollywood directors with a "potential sex offender" stamp as men in those professions are far more likely to harm women than trans women who simply need to use bathroom facilities! (I am not serious here -- a "potential sex offender" stamp is a terrible idea meant only to illustrate that protecting women at the expense of trans people is ludicrous.) Furthermore, the very idea of "gender ideology extremism" was invented by the authoritarian leader of a hostile foreign power (Russia) to discriminate against their citizens and divide their society. We can't sit by and let this dangerously bigoted and regressive concept be imported to the United States. Trans people's gender identity does not pose a threat to anyone. Trans people deserve to have official documents that reflect the gender they have worked and suffered to affirm. These proposed changes reflect an embrace of a fringe ideology so that the President of the United States can ingratiate himself with an extreme far-right foreign leader. These changes must be rejected.