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I strongly oppose the State Department's policy requiring U.S. passport holders to have their assigned sex at birth on their passports, regardless of their legal and lived gender. This policy is discriminatory, unjustified, and places unnecessary burdens on transgender, non-binary, and intersex individuals.

Passports serve as critical identification documents for travel, employment, and daily life. Forcing individuals to carry passports that do not reflect their gender identity increases the risk of discrimination, harassment, and even danger when crossing borders or interacting with officials. Many states and federal agencies already recognize gender markers that align with an individual's legal and lived identity, making this policy an outlier that needlessly isolates and endangers a segment of the U.S. population.

Furthermore, this policy contradicts fundamental American values of equality, dignity, and personal freedom. The previous option allowing gender marker changes and non-binary "X" designations provided a simple, effective solution that harmed no one while ensuring the safety and dignity of all passport holders. There is no legitimate security or administrative justification for this reversal—only an intent to exclude and erase transgender and non-binary individuals from public life.

I urge the State Department to reverse this policy and restore the ability of passport holders to accurately reflect their gender identity on their documents. The United States should be a leader in human rights, not a country that forces its citizens into bureaucratic and legal invisibility.