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I am an American citizen identifying as a biological woman, and I am concerned that the proposed change requiring the use of "sex" instead of "gender" threatens my safety and privacy and that of my fellow Americans as gender identity may not conform with the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

EO 14168 broadly defines sex and the binaries of male and female as reproductive biological classifications and describes gender as a choice of self-representation. However, scientific progress has established that what determines a biological male or female isn't limited to visible physical indicators like external anatomy. This determination can also be affected by the combination of chromosomes, the state of sexual anatomy (ex. intersex conditions), responsiveness to hormonal signals, among other factors. Thanks to medical advancements, biological attributes are not immutable - breast surgeries, gender-affirming procedures and hormone therapy are but a few of the options for bodily modification.

In addition, medical documentation provided at birth - which EO 14168 establishes as a primary document - isn't free from errors and may need correction at any time throughout one's life. Typographical mistakes can happen to anyone regardless of sex, and intersex individuals can be initially assigned the wrong sex at birth.

Should biological sex be enforced as a requirement of identity, I worry for someone presenting differently from what birth documentation provides or reproductive biology assumes. I worry that Americans could be subjected to unreasonably intrusive investigation just to travel, if not totally denied the ability.

With the many ways to modify one's physicality regardless of reasons, how does the government intend on confirming biological sex during an in-person appointment? Will I need to strip down and display my anatomy? Will a friend, whose passion for body building, lack of visible breasts and diagnosis of infertility need to explain why she appears male or can't have children? Will a man with gender-affirming surgery or an individual with atypical genitalia or similarly unusual biological attributes need to share these private conditions with strangers just so they can go on vacation? Will an applicant who can't answer these questions have to undergo examinations instead?

Also, given the impermanence of physical or biological presentation, it's unclear how requiring biological sex for identification on a passport makes traveling more secure. There are credible, actual threats to travelers (ex. terrorism, human trafficking, faulty manufacturing) that occur regardless of the perpetrators' biological sex and need more attention. Dying in an accident due to lack of plane maintenance or aircrew is a more present and realistic danger to me than a fellow passenger assigned male at birth but presenting female and is otherwise minding their business.

Further, EO 14168 purports to protect my freedom to express the sex I may be classified under, but I've never been prevented from doing so by having a gender marker for other identifiers. The proposed change doesn't have a useful impact to that freedom but it may subject individuals whose identities may not line up with biological expectations for any reason to more harassment, and being involuntarily "outed" in hostile locations unduly endangers their lives.

Requiring the use of "sex" instead of "gender" is a waste of resources, a danger to our citizens, and should be dropped.