Author Full Name: Kathryn Ovink Received Date: 03/02/2025 04:06 PM

## **Comments Received:**

I am opposed to forcing U.S. passport holders who have received their documents 1 year ago (or less) to change their documents to their sex assigned at birth. They should be allowed to use the gender identity they chose for their documents. This rule change is harmful and would cause any transgender, intersex or gender non-conforming applicant to be forced to change their passport to an incorrect gender marker. My niece applied for and received a passport with the X gender marker in 2022. This was a huge relief for them, knowing that they would not have to pretend to be a gender they do not identify with when traveling. Having documents that match these human's lived realities is important in maintaining their dignity. Changing this rule violates the ideals of American freedom and personal liberty. Ideals that the party currently in charge of the U.S. government so often claims to hold dear. Moreover, medical science, history and the law back up the necessity of a neutral gender marker. Doctors and scholars inform us that intersex people, transgender people, and gender non-conforming people exist and have existed for as long as human history. To deny this reality betrays the claim of upholding ideals of freedom. Please, do not force U.S. passport holders to change their gender marker. Allow them to maintain the gender marker that matches their lived reality.