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Comments in response to Comments Application for US Passports

Title of Information Collection: Application for a U.S. Passport.

OMB Control Number: 1405-0004.

Form Number: DS-11.

Changes: To comply with E.O. 14168, "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government," the Department updated the form to replace the term "gender" with "sex." The U.S. Passport conforms with the standards set by the E.O. and the International Civil Aviation Organization, which among other things determine the various fields on the passport's biographical data page. Consistent with the E.O., the revised DS-11 will request the applicant's biological sex at birth, male "M" or female "F."

COMMENTS: The first round of executive orders (1) directs that passports shall reflect the sex of the individual, which is determined based on the relative size of the reproductive cell they produce at birth (2).

Besides the obvious, that we don't test for this metric at birth, even if we did, such determination and measurement of the size of a person reproductive cell would clearly be classified as medical information and likely subject to HIPPA.

Satisfaction of definitions of male and female are unobtainable. Again, biological metrics are not measured at conception and therefore no individual meets the EO 14168 definitions. Moreover, phenotypes are distinct from genotypes and are influenced by exogenous factors. For example, certain hormones can physically change a neonates' biology and gender determination. Transgender is a natural state of our wonderfully complex biology.

Medical transitioning is part of a person's medical history and consistent with our current culture (HIPPA/Dr-patient confidentiality), a person's status as transgender should not be disclosed against a person's will as is what would happen with the proposed gender marker changes.

We are well aware that some individuals have ambiguous genitalia and/or no ability to generate reproductive cells. Not that it's anyone's business, but these individual's gender is not assignable at birth. This fact means that the passport process will be inaccessible to some individuals.

The new E.O. creates unequal standards of passports for cis-gender and trans-gender individuals. Cis-gender individuals will continue to enjoy a passport that matches their outward presentation while trans-individuals will get a passport that contradicts their outward presentation. Therefore, people will be treated unequally under this new process and the result will be that people have different standards for information exhibited on their passports. Hence, the reliance of the passport will be different for some individuals.

These proposed changes will cause intentional harm to transpeople by disclosing that they are transgender. Because of practices embodied in these E.O.s and misinformation spread by this administration, transpeople will be subject to additional violence by outing them on their passports. The rate of violent crimes against transpeople is known, and to intentionally and knowingly out people's transgender status (millions of people in the US), will intentionally and knowingly put them in danger. For the same reasons as above, these proposed changes will cause imminent physical and mental harm to transpeople by disclosing that they are transgender.

These proposed changes would weaken the passport as an identity document. If a person does not look like the gender on t