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I oppose the changes that would replace "gender" with "sex" on passports, as well as requiring renewed passports to reflect an applicant's "biological sex at birth." Passports should not require a gender or sex marker in the first place, as it is not relevant information to whether someone should be able to cross a border. But within these requirements, individuals should be able to choose the marker that best suits them. This keeps American citizens safe in domestic & international travel, protects their right to privacy in terms of their gender/sexual identity, and rejects an erroneous system that insists on a binary "biological" option.

The only gender ideology extremism at play when it comes to sex/gender markers is the unscientific insistence on a binary gender system (male/female), when there are plenty of examples in nature and science that refute this binary. Intersex people often have secondary sexual characteristics that do not "match" with their external genitalia (for example, a penis and breasts, or a vulva and facial hair). The gender assigned to them at birth--because let's be clear, it is not their "biological sex at birth," it is what a doctor decided when filling out an M or F based on the existence of a penis or vulva--may not necessarily align with the secondary features they develop upon puberty, and furthermore may not fit with how they are perceived as they move through the world. These individuals are put in danger when they cannot select for themselves the sex or gender that best matches their expression. There are plenty of variations on this very real and biological condition, including people with a set of chromosomes that does not match XX or XY. This article outlines a lot of the basics: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/biological-sex-male-female-intersex>

Insisting on "biological gender" is a fallacy in the first place that harms not just trans people, but anyone moving through the world with a gender expression that may not match the letter a doctor put on their birth certificate. I would hope that the goal with any identification document is to provide a citizen with the means to safely offer their identity when it is necessary.

Requiring trans people to receive passport documentation that includes the sex or gender marker a doctor gave them at birth does not make anyone safer and introduces delays in production of passports and transit. If customs & immigration has to pull aside a woman because her passport has an M on it, they aren't able to swiftly process travelers or focus on things of actual importance, like ensuring that someone isn't smuggling goods.

Trans people should be able to select the marker that keeps them safest during travel, period. If a trans woman is safest with an F on her identity documents, she should not be forced to use any other identification. "Safety" in this case should be a matter of individual choice. If someone feels safest with an X marker on their documents, they should be allowed to use this marker. (More than 15 countries allow X gender markers on passports, which benefit not just trans and nonbinary people. The US should continue to allow the use of X markers and not penalize the people using them in any way.)

To sum, a sex or gender marker is unnecessary on passport documents. If we insist on using them, individuals should be empowered to use the marker that ensures them the most safety during travel. A biological gender/sex binary does not exist.