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I am a transgender female US Citizen in my 60s and I have been issued a US Passport with the F gender marker in line with my gender identity. I underwent many hours of therapy sessions during my transition, had gender reassignment surgery to align my physical presentation with my female gender identity, and am presently on hormone replacement therapy (like females of my age). I have lived almost half my life as female and have had a fulfilling career as a software engineer in the aerospace industry, adding to the US's intellectual property by authoring many technical patents.

As the US Passport is primarily a document used as proof of identity outside the US, I am anxious that having an M gender marker in the passport as a result of a passport renewal using the proposed DS-82 form, which does not match my physical presentation as female, would cause confusion and even physical or emotional threats to me at customs and immigration points both domestic and abroad.

As I am recently retired, I have plans to travel abroad, which would greatly benefit the US travel industry (airlines, travel agents, cruise lines, etc.). However with the change in the DS-82, I feel that my safety and wellbeing are threatened, both whilst traveling abroad and transiting through customs and immigration checkpoints, and would have to reconsider any leisure travel, thus impacting the US travel industry.

I therefore ask that the Department of State not revise the DS-82 form with the proposed change to request biological sex at birth.