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I strongly oppose the proposed changes to passport applications that would replace the term "gender" with "sex" and require the designation of sex assigned at birth limited to just M or F. This change is unnecessary, confusing, and harmful to transgender, nonbinary, and intersex individuals. The term "gender" more accurately reflects a person's lived identity and aligns with international standards for travel documentation. Reverting to "sex" enforces rigid classifications that fail to account for the diverse experiences of many passport holders and may lead to increased discrimination, travel barriers, and personal safety risks.

Critically, limiting the options to only "male (M)" or "female (F)" erases the existence of intersex and nonbinary people. This exclusion disregards the lived realities of many U.S. citizens and increases the likelihood of passport-related challenges when traveling domestically and internationally.

Recommendation:

I strongly recommend maintaining the term "gender" and preserving the previous policy that allows for the inclusion of "M," "F," or "X" on passport applications. This approach:

1. Accurately reflects an individual's identity.
2. Aligns with global standards for travel documentation.
3. Promotes inclusivity and respects the dignity and rights of all citizens.

Continuing to recognize gender rather than reverting to sex assigned at birth ensures that the United States remains consistent with other nations that prioritize human rights and non-discrimination in their identification processes.