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I strongly oppose the proposed changes to Form DS-5504, which would require applicants correcting or updating their passport to list their sex assigned at birth. This is unnecessary, discriminatory, and will disproportionately impact transgender individuals who need to update their documents to reflect their correct identity.

Additionally, the inclusion of a question regarding sex offender registration on this form is unrelated to the process of name changes or corrections. This question has no connection to the stated purpose of the form and creates a false connection between changes to gender markers and the commitment of sex crimes. Historically, LGBTQ+ individuals have faced criminalization due to outdated and discriminatory laws. The introduction of this question could open the door for further stigmatization and unnecessary scrutiny of transgender and nonbinary applicants.

There is already a process for sex offenders to identify themselves, there is no need to create additional barriers at this phase in the application process. These changes create unnecessary barriers for individuals simply seeking to correct or update their passports. I urge the Department of State to remove the requirement to list sex at birth and reconsider the inclusion of sex offender registration on this form.