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I strongly oppose the proposed change to Form DS-11, which would replace 'gender' with 'sex' and require applicants to list their sex assigned at birth. This change directly harms transgender and nonbinary people by removing their ability to obtain accurate and affirming identification.

For many transgender individuals, having identity documents that align with their gender is critical for safety. A passport with an inaccurate gender marker increases the risk of discrimination, travel delays, and even violence, particularly when crossing international borders.

The current policy, which allows for self-identification, is in line with human rights standards and global best practices. Rolling back this right is discriminatory and unnecessary. I urge the Department of State to reject this proposal and maintain policies that respect gender diversity.