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It is important that US residents seeking a name change, a change in gender marker, or other data corrections on the individual's passport continue to be allowed in order to match other identification papers. This has been historically important for people who get married to be able to change their last name if they decide to. Right now, it is equally, if not more important, for intersex, gender nonconforming, and transgender people to be able to change their name on all official documents as well. Especially if the individual has officially had their name changed through state governments already - which is required anyway.

Why is it important for people to be able to change their name and gender markers on official government papers? It is vital for their mental health and well being, their physical safety while traveling, and aligns with equitable values that gender conforming people receive, and that are touted to be at the core of the United States of America: freedom, equality, and individualism. Someone's gender identity, even if it does not align with an assigned sex at birth, should not be something that is decided by the state or federal government, and is an infringement of the individual's freedoms.

This subject is very personal to me. In the beginning of my sister's transition, her ability to go places, for example, anywhere that required using her government issued driver's license - be it to vote or travel - was severely limited. Even seeing her old name on her ID was enough trauma to cause a severe panic attack and greatly disrupted her ability to function as a participating adult in society. When she was able to get her name officially changed with the state courts, and get her birth certificate reissued with her new name, she did not live in as much fear or gender dysphoria (definition: a state of severe distress or unhappiness caused by feeling that one's gender identity does not match one's sex as registered at birth) and she was able to navigate places much easier; her mental health improved indescribably.

Right now, my sister, along with thousands of other people in the United States of America, are living in fear due to a number of anti-trans legislation that is being passed. That itself is worrying but not directly the issue I am addressing here. But if the worst comes for transgender people, if many of the Trump Administration's anti-trans legislation comes to pass, they will not only be stripped of their personal freedoms, but will also be trapped in a country that is actively trying to kill them. They will not be able to flee for their lives - away from a country founded in freedom itself.

I would like to end with a quote from a recent lawsuit submitted by ACLU: *Orr V Trump*.

"The Passport Policy is unlawful and unconstitutional. It discriminates against individuals based on their sex and, as to some, their transgender status. It is motivated by impermissible animus. It cannot be justified under any level of judicial scrutiny, and it wrongly seeks to erase the reality that transgender, intersex, and nonbinary people exist today as they always have....It also is unmoored from scientific and medical reality: Transgender people, intersex people, and people who do not identify as either (or exclusively) male or female exist. Scientific and medical authorities have recognized that fact, as have courts across the country including the U.S. Supreme Court."

Thank you for your time and consideration.