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Comments Received:

I am a trans man about to turn 18 in just a month. I live my life as a male, see myself entirely as male and but unfortunately have not been able to update my documents in any regard.

I have believed for the past 5 years that I could change my gender marker and my legal documents upon my 18th birthday. That, upon becoming an adult, people would begin to see me as someone whose identity and decisions they wouldn't be able control. That I would have autonomy over my own documents and be able to live my life as I intend to.

That, in my eyes, is included in the promise of the United States of America. Providing everyone with freedom, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If you deny trans Americans these fundamental ideals of your government -- what does that say about you?

I can only try to tell you how wrong it feels when there is always something: a passport, a drivers' license, an ID card, that painfully insists you are someone you know you aren't. No matter what age you are, you are treated like a very young child: it's your name, your gender marker, and your life, but not your decision. And you can't stop whoever's making these decisions for you -- you can only ask them to have some decency.

The passport executive order is not just devastating to just me-- it's devastating to thousands of young trans Americans. We only ask to be respected, you practice your "small government" philosophies and stay out of our documents and medical decisions.