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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed policy change requiring Americans to list their sex at birth rather than their current gender on passport applications. This change is unnecessary, discriminatory, and contradicts the principles of equality and dignity that our nation strives to uphold.

Forcing individuals to disclose their sex assigned at birth rather than their lived gender creates undue hardship, especially for transgender and non-binary individuals who rely on accurate identification documents for travel, employment, and everyday life. The existing policy, which allows people to reflect their authentic gender identity, aligns with best practices recognized by medical and human rights organizations, as well as many other countries around the world.

This change would not enhance security or serve any legitimate governmental interest. Instead, it would create barriers for American citizens, increasing the risk of discrimination, harassment, and denial of services. Furthermore, such a policy shift could violate constitutional protections under the Equal Protection Clause and Title IX, which prohibit sex-based discrimination.

I urge the State Department to reject this proposed change and instead uphold policies that respect the identities of all Americans. Our government should be working to make identification documents more inclusive, not taking steps backward.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will take my concerns, and those of countless other citizens, into account when making this decision.

Sincerely,
Leala Smith
Form number DS-11