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I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed changes to the U.S. Passport Renewal Application for Eligible Individuals, as outlined in the executive order titled "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government."

While I understand the intent behind these changes is to protect women, I strongly believe that the proposed modifications will not achieve this goal and may, in fact, cause harm. Here's why:

Lack of Protection for Women: The proposed changes do not address the actual issues that women face, such as gender-based violence, economic inequality, and underrepresentation in leadership roles. Instead, they focus on a narrow interpretation of gender and sex, which does not reflect the complex realities of women's lives.

Not Reflective of Current Medical Science: The proposed changes do not align with the current understanding of gender and sex in the medical and scientific communities. Major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association, recognize that gender is a spectrum and that transgender individuals should be treated with dignity and respect.

Potential for Harm: The proposed changes could lead to increased discrimination and harm for transgender and non-binary individuals. This could also be the case for cisgender individuals who do not fit an official's standards and expectations of presentation for others of that person's sex or gender. This could include difficulties in accessing necessary services, increased risk of violence, and negative impacts on mental health.

I urge the Department of State to reconsider these proposed changes and instead focus on policies that genuinely protect and support all women, including transgender women. I also encourage the Department to consult with medical and scientific experts, as well as with women's rights and LGBTQ+ advocacy organizations, to develop policies that are evidence-based and inclusive. Thank you for considering my comments.