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I strongly oppose the changes to the DS-82 passport renewal form that require applicants to list "biological sex at birth" instead of their gender.

Given the advanced facial recognition and fingerprint recognition technology that exists today, neither gender nor sex are essential markers for identification purposes, so making this change does not improve the identification process. Furthermore, preventing transgender individuals from updating their passport to reflect their chosen gender will only increase confusion for individuals who no longer appear like a member of their sex at birth.

Not only does this change put transgender individuals at unnecessary risk of harassment and discrimination for no to negative improvement in the identification process, many cisgender citizens will also be caught in the backlash if they appear atypical for a person of their sex. There have already been numerous cases of masculine cisgender women being harassed in bathrooms, emboldened by anti-trans sentiment.

In addition, a binary classification of sex into male and female does not reflect biological reality for the thousands of intersex Americans, putting them at risk of harassment and discrimination for no choice of their own.

I urge the State Department to withdraw this harmful proposal and maintain the status quo for self-identification of gender in passport applications.