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Dear regulators,

I submit this comment in response to OMB control number 1405-0004 regarding applications for US Passports. In the Federal Register notice issued on February 14, 2025, the agency stated its intent to limit passport renewals to individuals with gender markers of "sex at birth," either M for male or F for female. It is important to note that there are many individuals whose sex at birth is more ambiguous than a simple binary. Experts estimate that up to 1.7% of the population have intersex traits at birth. For individuals born with gender ambiguity requiring US passports to indicate either male or female de facto inhibits their ability to travel internationally.

Moreover, it is critical for both safety and ease of travel that an individual's passport be consistent with their other identifying documents and with their outer appearance. To require transgender individuals who have transitioned from one gender to another or who are nonbinary to travel with a passport marked with a gender that does not match their identity may put them at risk of both discrimination and rejection of approval to enter or leave a country. Impeding one's ability to travel violates their constitutional rights and is antithetical to the purpose of a passport. Passports are designed for national security and identification. Disallowing people to have a gender marker that is consistent with their gender identity and outward appearance makes no sense from a national security standpoint and creates ambiguity when trying to verify a person's identity, particularly if other identifying documents, such as a drivers license, indicate a different gender than the passport.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reject the proposal to require gender markers on US passports to align with a person's biological sex at birth. Thank you.