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I am writing out of strong opposition to the rule change regarding passport gender markers. This is a hurtful, discriminatory policy that is unnecessary and creates yet more stigma and anxiety for transgender people in this country. Every citizen deserves a U.S. passport that matches who they are to ensure they can safely travel, obtain employment, interact with law enforcement, and go about their daily lives without fear of harassment, undue scrutiny, and discrimination.

It is a burden on passport applicants to be asked for evidence of our biological sex at birth, and a waste of government time and resources to require State Department employees to research this information. It is none of the federal government's business to track down these private details about us. A passport is an important document and for our government to withhold applications without processing or status updates, or to respond to an application that includes a gender marker change by producing a passport with the incorrect gender, inflicts unnecessary harm and stress on the individuals who need them (and their families or travel companions).