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I write to strongly oppose the proposed changes made by the current federal government that would prevent transgender Americans from updating their gender marker.

My core point: requiring people who have undergone medical and surgical gender transition to use documents with their birth sex is highly dangerous to both transgender people and the people around them. I would prefer the government stay out of personal gender identity altogether, but at the very least, the law should make a distinction between adults who simply say they are transgender, and those who have physically transitioned to a body that appears to be the opposite sex.

Whether or not it is "moral", the objective fact is that thousands of consenting adult American citizens have already received hormonal and surgical treatment to transition to the opposite sex. These changes literally cannot be undone no matter what laws are passed. This means there are thousands of Americans who were born female, but have full beards, deep voices, flat chests, and male-appearing genitalia. There are thousand of Americans who were born male, but have breasts, feminine appearances, and surgically-created female-appearing genitalia. Some of these Americans have been living as their preferred sex for years or even decades, with updated legal documents, using bathrooms, locker rooms, and more without bothering anyone.

What will happen to these thousands of Americans under the proposed changes? Putting all personal views about transgender people aside, it is a logistical nightmare. Suppose a transgender man with hormones and surgery is at TSA and presents a passport that says "female". When the agent looks up to see a bearded, masculine-bodied person, they might suspect the passport is fake. How would the passenger be able to prove it if they've already had surgery? Further, what if this same passenger needs a pat-down - would you want a female TSA agent to be required to pat-down the body of a passenger with surgically created male parts? Conversely, would it be fair for a transgender woman with breasts to be pat-down by a male TSA agent?

It is additionally necessary that legal documents accurately reflect the holder - this is why we renew ID photos every so often. For transgender people who have physically transitioned, many of them do not resemble their birth sex anymore. If they were to go missing, or be sought after by law enforcement, announcing their birth sex to the public would all but guarantee they are not found. If a 30 year old transgender man with full beard, muscles, a male-looking body is referred to by the government as a 30 year old female, that person may never be found.

Further, consider the implications of requiring birth sex paperwork in people who no longer look at all like their birth sex. If a transgender man has a passport reading "female", what is to stop that person from walking into a women's bathroom, bearded and muscular, with male-looking genitalia in his pants? Every woman I know would prefer to share a bathroom with a transgender woman who had her male parts surgically removed than a transgender man who had male parts created.

The bottom line: requiring physically-transitioned adults to abide by their birth sex is illogical and dangerous. This does not make America safe. Every major medical society supports letting consenting adults transition their gender. Let transgender adults quietly live their lives as themselves.