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I am writing regarding the proposed change to have transgender individuals list their birth gender on the passport renewal form rather than the gender they identify with. In many cases, transgender individuals have had passports in their identified gender for many years. Their appearance often corresponds to this gender. Forcing the birth gender to be placed on the renewed passport puts the transgender individual in potential danger and at risk for harassment. It creates an unsafe situation for a group of people who are already marginalized in this society. Allowing the transgender individual to have their identified gender on their passport in no way causes harm to anyone. It does not in any way create danger.

What is the purpose of noting an individual's gender on the passport anyway? There are many other ways to confirm someone's identity these days. Gender seems to be the least effective way to obtain this information.

I have a transgender family member and all they want is to be seen and accepted for the person they feel they are deep down. There is no harm to anyone else in them living the life they desire. Forcing this change in gender on the renewed passport will cause psychological harm to them and does not in any way make travel safer for others.

This would be a very harmful, hurtful change to make.