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Application for a U.S. Passport 1405-0004:

As an undergraduate student at University of California Santa Barbara, I stand against the changes to this regulation. I am a cisgender (non-trans) woman, and I feel this will deeply hurt my trans friends and family, and do nothing to 'protect' me. In the article "Gender-concordant identity documents and mental health among transgender adults in the USA: a cross-sectional study," (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9912749/>, doi: 10.1016/S2468-2667(20)30032-3), researchers found that having ID that did not match the persons identified name and gender was correlated with higher levels of serious psychological distress and suicidal ideation.

Additionally, in "Altering Gender Markers on Government Identity Documents: Unpredictable, Burdensome, and Oppressive," (University of Pennsylvania Journal of Law and Social Change, vol. 23, no. 3, 2020, pp. 203-250. HeinOnline, <https://heinonline-org.proxy.library.ucsb.edu/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/hybrid23&i=240>.), Maier outlines the issues that arise when one's gender presentation does not match their sex marker- not only can this be dangerous for the individual, but it is confusing to TSA workers and creates additional issues.

I strongly believe this decision harms transgender people, does not promote security, and in fact makes security more convoluted and difficult.