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I urge you to reject this policy change. President Trump issued an executive order attempting to deny that trans, intersex, and nonbinary people exist, and denying them equal rights and treatment under the law. But trans people are our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers, and our family members. I do not support this type of discrimination in my country.

As a cis woman, like the majority of women, I do not feel in any way threatened or harmed by the existence and public acknowledgement of trans identities. All of us, including transgender people, need accurate and consistent identity documents that reflect who we are. That's what IDs are for. These documents allow us to travel, start new jobs, open bank accounts, and enroll in school. To deny documents that align with the identities and lived experiences of transgender Americans excludes and endangers a segment of our population.

This policy change also discriminates against Americans who are intersex, who physically do not fit neatly into the categories of sex assigned at birth that are given, and who often develop much different physically from their sex determinations by doctors at birth.

This policy change also directly contradicts the wide scientific consensus of the medical community, which acknowledges the necessity of participating in society within their lived gender for transgender people's basic health and wellbeing.

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. Transgender people are not extremists or criminals; they are ordinary people trying to go about their lives. They have always existed, and punishing them for who they are makes us a poorer society.

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.

We rely on our federal government to be thoughtful, well-reasoned, and fair to all Americans, yet this new policy provides no thought, reason, or fairness. Nor does it reflect the will of the people. Instead, it targets a small population of the United States and denies them identification documents they need to safely travel and go about their lives.

State Department, I urge you to reject this policy change –do not take away the rights of trans, intersex, and nonbinary citizens to obtain a passport that reflects who they are, a right we've had here in the United States for over 30 years.