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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. If I read correctly an increase of 18 million hours and an increased cost of over \$200 million.

I see this as a waste of human resources and of taxpayer dollars. The Executive Order 14168:

"Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government" is misguided, inaccurate and harmful to the general health and well being of our citizens. I am a practicing physician for more than 50 years and the father of 5 children. I see people grow and have fulfilling lives when they are accepted for who they are. And I have seen the devastation when they are not: the psychological distress, resultant mental illness and suicide.

The Biological Truth is that people have different gender orientations and different gender identities that are not necessarily their sex as assigned at birth, and that these may fluctuate through life. And that these are not a matter of choice. do not represent abnormality, pathology or Gender Ideology Extremism that Women need to be Defended from.

My opinion is that the specification of gender is sufficient, that the proposed change places an unnecessary burden, is wasteful and should not be enacted.