

Author Full Name : Laurie Donovan**Received Date :** 03/12/2025 03:07 PM**Comments Received :**

Passports are a primary source of identification. The proposed change to replace the term "gender" with "sex" will only cause confusion and unnecessary disruption at airports and everywhere else that passports are used and I ask this agency to thoroughly reject this change. Gender as an identifier will more correctly match the person described in their documents with the person who is standing in front of you. By contrast, biological sex at birth describes a person at a point in time in their (often decades-ago) past. It is far more important to have on my ID a current picture and description for the purpose of correctly identifying who I am when I am trying to travel, claim benefits, obtain a driver's license, etc. Keeping gender as one of the identifiers on our passports – and including the spectrum of all genders that exist in our world today – is more accurate for passports to successfully and efficiently serve their purpose in our society. In terms of national security, accuracy, efficiency, keeping gender is the only way forward. As a US citizen, I am appalled on moral grounds that we are trying to shove people back into restrictive and outdated binaries that obfuscate the truth of one's identity, but beyond that, I am also enraged at this attempt to waste taxpayer money to force this change in our documents that will also at best be a waste time at ports of entry for anyone and everyone and at worst will deny people the rights they are entitled to just because their appearance does not align with the passport reviewer's perception of what a human male or female is supposed to look like. As a mental health professional with many clients, friends and family members who would be harmed by this change, I ask you to oppose it. This is a terrible and illogical idea and I hope this agency rejects it in full.