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RE: the rights of transgender and gender diverse individuals for safety in travel abroad as Americans.

Department of State: Your department is charged in part with the safety of Americans abroad. Proposed changes in the application process reflecting gender will not assure American safety, in fact will make travel more difficult and potentially dangerous for trans and gender diverse Americans for reasons that are certainly obvious to you. Requiring people to admit to the gender assigned at birth ignores the lived reality of a small number of people who are no threat to the rest of us. What it does is make their lives dangerous when their current appearance and their supposed birth sex do not align in their present life. As the mother of a trans adult who has travelled internationally for business, I ask you to maintain your former gender representations as a choice point for our citizens. We gain nothing as a nation by abandoning some of our citizens by denying the fact that trans people have always existed--not been dangerous to anyone else--and prior to this religious crusade have passed mostly unnoticed. This is a moment in history where we have a chance to recognize and protect all Americans, not just those that the Right approves of. Having the recent options, and the ability to make a change in gender descriptor, in place on a passport renewal or application has not been dangerous to our country in any way--but a change will be dangerous for some of our citizens. Please do not play politics with the lives of Americans.