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My comment is in response to the proposal issued by the State Department on February 18, 2025, to update form DS-82, "U.S. Passport Renewal Application for Eligible Individuals" (OMB control # 1405-0020). I am strongly OPPOSED to this proposal as it threatens the rights of transgender citizens. I have many transgender people in my circle of friends and they simply want and need to live their lives authentically without having to hide or deny who they are. It is cruel to take away their protections and rights. They are being targeted by the current presidential administration for political gain. Despite the political rhetoric being used by some in the federal government, transgender people do not pose a threat to anyone. In addition, there is no need for the proposed changes as the current policies are effective. Replacing the term "gender" with "sex" and requesting the biological sex at birth, with the only options being "M" or "F" is telling transgender citizens that their identity is invalid and this is a violation of their civil rights.

I urge you to Oppose this proposal.

Sincerely
Abbie M Ellicott