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I urge you to reject this policy change. President Trump issued an executive order attempting to deny that trans and intersex 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.

All of us, including transgender people and non-binary 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.

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. It is none of the federal government's business to track down these private details about us.

As a passport acceptance agent for over 8 years now, I have had the privilege to get a small glimpse into what happens behind the scenes with the passport application process. I know how long it took for the State Department to get the X gender markers available for applicants. I know it was a long and time-consuming process for staff. To see all that time and hard work be for nothing is frustrating for so many reasons. To be told to destroy hundreds of applications at our facility alone was completely wasteful and unnecessary. This is not a respectful or responsible use of the taxpayers' resources. Undoing all this work is not a reasonable use of State Department staff time.

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. 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 non-binary citizens to obtain a passport that reflects who they are, a right they've had here in the United States for over 30 years.