

Author Full Name : John Backman**Received Date :** 03/13/2025 03:41 PM**Comments Received :**

I am writing to object to the proposed information collection, as it not only violates the civil rights of people with non-conforming genders, but also runs afoul of the Department's own goals in proposing the collection. Alternatively, I propose that the Department delete all mention of sex/gender on passports and passport applications.

According to the Request for Public Comment, the Department seeks to "Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department." The answer is clearly no when one reviews the definitions of sex in the president's EO 14168. For purposes of travel, there is no need for the Department to know, for instance, whether the applicant "[belongs], at conception, to the sex that produces the large reproductive cell" (the definition of "female" in the EO) or "small reproductive cell" ("male"). Moreover, border officials could not use the information under this definition to verify identity or sex without the most intrusive methods (such as strip search). This imposes an intolerable burden on both border officials and on the travelers whose rights are being violated.

In addition, the binary nature of the proposed change essentially erases the identity of the millions of transgender and gender non-conforming citizens who apply for passports. Such erasure provides the intellectual justification for inflicting more oppressive measures on these citizens, which goes against the founding ideals of the Republic.

Since it is inconceivable that the current Administration would permit designations for transgender and gender non-conforming citizens in any event, I believe the most efficient solution is to remove the issue entirely by removing sex/gender entirely from all phases of passport application and issuance. Thank you for considering this.