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I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the DS-82 Passport Renewal Form that would require applicants to list their "biological sex at birth" instead of their gender. This policy is unnecessary and harmful, especially for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex individuals who already face challenges when updating their accurate identification.

As detailed more completely in the attached document, the changes

- 1 - Are in direct violation of the injunction put on the State Department by the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
- 2 - Would jeopardize the safety and well-being of U.S. citizens when traveling abroad by exposing sensitive medical or personal information to a variety of individuals not bound by their office or position to protect personal or sensitive information
- 3 - Violate the First Amendment right to self-expression of an estimated 8.8 million intersex, transgender and nonbinary individuals who are U.S. citizens
- 4 - Would create inconsistencies with state-issued identification documents which in turn would
  - complicate the renewal review process for State Department employees and applicants and undermine the Administration's goal of streamlining government operations and making them more efficient
  - invade the privacy of individuals who need to use their passport for identification in non-travel circumstances such as verification of identity for employment, housing, financial transactions, and interactions with government employees, including law enforcement
  - expose individuals to the risk of harassment and physical harm by forcing them to expose private and personal information subject to strict privacy protections in other circumstances
- 5 - Would complicate the work of U.S. Customs and Border Control agents and take their attention away from tasks with actual bearing on traveler safety and/or border security

I urge the State Department to reconsider this change and ensure that individuals renewing their passport have the option of choosing the previously approved "X" gender marker which is consistent with the federal court ruling. Reinstating use of the X gender marker is a simple and effective way to avoid the issues summarized above and detailed in the attached document.