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Comments Received:

The proposed rule serves no public purpose, since the purpose of a passport to correctly identify a citizen of the United States for purposes of international travel is already accomplished by existing federal rules and policies. The structure of a person's genitals at the time of their birth, perhaps many decades ago, is of no relevance to an adult's travel activity in in the present. In addition, state birth certificates are often amended later in cases when anatomical sex registered at birth was incorrect due to medical conditions -- as in cases of naturally occurring hermaphroditism, XXY chromosomal abnormalities, or the unusual/ambiguous anatomy of a newborn infant's genitalia. The assignment of sex is a matter of science and medicine, and an adult's sex is already easily attested to by a passport applicant based on medical records. The assignment or reassignment of sex by a government entity, based on scientifically incorrect or questionable assumptions, would be a cruel and unusual abuse of federal government power with life-changing, even life-threatening consequences for Americans who travel abroad. History is replete with examples where people suffered persecution or death because their governments required them to be publicly marked as a member of a sexual, ethnic, racial or religious minority. Given that history and the baseless rationale for this proposed new passport rule, it is clear that the only result of its implementation would be facilitating harm to law-abiding Americans who need accurate identification and who should have the same rights as any other citizens to travel abroad with the permission and protection of a U.S. passport.