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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 or current legal sex. This policy is unnecessary and harmful for every citizen, especially for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex individuals who already face challenges when updating their accurate identification.

Requiring an individual's sex, specifically at birth, be listed will do nothing but create unnecessary discrepancies in legal identification methods causing confusion, delays, and potential discrimination. It will also put citizens in serious danger as it could expose them to harassment when traveling, applying for jobs, and proving their identity. The current self-attestation system has worked well and should remain established.

There is a harmful notion that it is obvious when an individual is transgender because they will always look like their sex assigned at birth, regardless of the steps they take to socially and medically transition. This is completely false and dangerous to assume. Many transgender people undergo years of hormone replacement therapy and have surgeries to alter or remove sex characteristics such as genitals and breast tissue. Doing so allows a person to "pass" as the gender and/or sex they identify with.

Denying proper identification to transgender individuals based on the idea that they can never change what they were born as is ridiculous. This change, if passed, would issue passports with "F" to countless men with deep voices, thick beards, no breasts, and functioning male genitalia. It isn't just humiliating to the man who has to present this documentation to TSA agents or potential employers, it is also a HIPPA violation because it explicitly exposes the medical history of the individual.

Additionally, there are millions of children born with ambiguities in their sex characteristics at birth. These children are either classed as intersex from day one (sex marker "X") or the parents choose what they want their child to be. If they chose differently than the child hormonally develops as, this causes a similar sense of gender and sex dysphoria that can be alleviated by correcting their legal status to accurately reflect who they live as. Forcing legal identification to list exclusively "M" or "F" is blatant erasure of the millions of medically intersex citizens of our country. This is blatantly disrespectful and unnecessary.

I urge the State Department to reconsider this change and ensure all individuals can renew their passports with the correct gender marker without facing additional barriers.