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My comment is in response to the proposal issued by the State Department on February 18, 2025, to update form DS-82, "U.S. Passport Renewal Application for Eligible Individuals" (OMB control # 1405-0020).

On behalf of PFLAG Bowie in Bowie, Maryland, we oppose changing "Gender" to "Sex" on passport applications. Using data from 2018, an American Medical Association report estimates there are 1.4 million adults who identify as transgender, plus another 150,000 youth ages 13-17. Their report describes the mental stress that public confrontations afflict on transgender people.

People can't see someone's biological sex characteristics. That is private. People see gender identity. This is public. When you force someone who looks like a man to carry a passport that says he's a woman, you are setting them up for harassment, harassment that may follow them abroad. For the safety and security of these citizens, do NOT make these changes.

Sincerely,

Ann Fleming

PFLAG Bowie