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My comment is in response to the proposal issued by the State Department on February 14, 2025, to update form DS-11, "Application for a U.S. Passport" (OMB control # 1405-0004).

As an ally and the President of PFLAG Bowie, I do not support this proposal. When I think of those in my community who are trans, they will be facing the decision of whether or not to get a passport, which gives them the freedoms of additional identification and to travel the world. This proposal means they would have to lie to themselves in order to fit into the government's definition of who they are as a human being.

Biological sex at birth is determined by doctors as what a baby's external genitalia appears to be. According to the American Medical Association, there are a number of traits that make up sex, including "chromosomes, gonadal structure, hormone levels, internal sex organs, and/or external genitalia" and "neither gender nor sex are stable, objective categories" (<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/cme-issue-brief-sex-gender-medical-education.pdf>).

If the U.S. State Department wants accurate records, they will remove these barriers to the passport applications. Trans people are Americans and deserve to be recognized and not erased from existence.