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Comments Received:

This change would cause grievous undue hardship to transgender Americans and others who do not outwardly look like the gender they were assigned at birth. The gender marker on a passport exists for the purpose of aiding identification of the passport holder. If the gender marker on the passport does not match the passport holder's outward appearance because they were assigned one gender at birth but later transitioned to a different gender, it would become unnecessarily difficult to correctly identify the passport holder, which would make it more difficult for transgender Americans to use their passports and make them more vulnerable to harassment by border guards. The gender that was assigned to the passport holder at birth is useless for identifying the passport holder if they do not resemble that gender, so it has no place on an identifying document like a passport. Furthermore, there are some other countries where having an appearance that does not match your passport's gender marker will land you in serious legal trouble, so not being able to have a gender marker that matches the passport holder's appearance would severely endanger them if they had to travel to a country with such laws. In my personal opinion, I think that putting gender/sex on identifying documents in *any* form is an antiquated practice that has long outlived its usefulness, and we should simply remove any such marker from identifying documents entirely. But, if a gender marker *must* remain on U.S. passports in some form, allowing passport holders to choose a gender marker that matches their gender expression is extremely important to ensure the safety of all U.S. passport holders.