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DS-11 Application for a US Passport
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I strongly oppose the proposed changes to form DS-11 that would require applicants for US Passports to provide their biological sex at birth.

The fundamental purpose of a passport is to verify a person's identity. The information on it, such as a photo, is used to visually confirm the identity of the individual. Sex assigned at birth is not a visually identifiable characteristic and therefore provides no useful information on a passport.

I am a transgender man who began transitioning over ten years ago. I am bald, with a full beard and baritone voice. No one looking at me could have any way of knowing my sex assigned at birth is female, and having that information on a passport would only make it harder to accurately identify me - negating the purpose of a passport. It would also expose me to harassment and make it unsafe to travel outside of the United States.

This is not only impractical and dangerous for me, but it would also waste a phenomenal amount of time and money for the State Department to try to provide some kind of evidence of people's sex assigned at birth. It would also waste time and resources for other agencies using my passport to try to identify me, such as the Transportation Security Administration.

The only outcomes of this proposed change would be to:

- Waste the State Department and other agencies' time and money
- Expose me and other transgender and nonbinary individuals to harassment
- Make it unsafe for transgender and nonbinary citizens to travel outside of the United States
- Eliminate transgender people's ability to safely or effectively use a passport for any purpose, such as an I-9 form for employment

There is nothing positive or productive that transgender people, the State Department, or the American public gains as a result of this proposed change. I urge the State Department to withdraw this proposal.