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The proposed changes to Form DS-5504 requiring applicants to list their "biological sex at birth" instead of their gender are unnecessary and harmful. Many people rely on this form to update their passports after legally changing their names or correcting an error, and this additional requirement will create needless obstacles.

By disregarding legal name and gender marker changes that have already been approved by state agencies, this rule could lead to document mismatches that put transgender, nonbinary, and intersex individuals at risk of discrimination, travel delays, and even job insecurity. A passport is a vital document, and the ability to update it should not come with invasive and irrelevant questions about a person's assigned sex at birth.

Imagine the individuals that have already gone through the difficulties to achieve their better lives, happily going about their day, only to be interrogated at the airport because their passport says they were assigned Female at birth but they have a full-grown beard.

Also using the term "biological" sex is problematic, as the US government really only acknowledges XX and XY chromosomes, when there are also people born with 47XXY or 45X. There are over 30 conditions that can lead to someone being intersex, and many people either never know or learn later in life that their assigned sex at birth does not match what their chromosomes dictate.

I urge the State Department to withdraw this proposal and allow individuals to correct or update their passports without unnecessary and discriminatory hurdles.