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I oppose the removal of the "X" option for sex on passport applications, renewals, and related documents. This is an option that has proven useful to individuals who are transgender, non-binary, intersex, or otherwise may have a gender presentation that differs in some way from sex assigned at birth, and is also useful to consular and immigration officials who are dealing with such people. The removal of this option appears to be motivated by animus towards such people aimed at making their lives and travel more difficult for no good reason, and as such, should be rejected, not withstanding any executive order to the contrary.

It seems clear that the main purpose of having a sex field on a passport at all is to help officials identify that the individual presenting the passport is the individual named on it. To this end, an "X" option is useful for informing officials that the gender presentation of the individual involved may not match expectations derived from sex assigned at birth, and that this is normal and not a sign of impersonation. To deny this option exposes such individuals to unwarranted delay and embarrassment and potential outright harassment or worse on the part of officials with whom they may interact.

I believe that these results may be intended by some of those who have encouraged the related executive order in order to help drive transgender, non-binary, intersex and related individuals from public life and deny them the ability to simply go about their lives as ordinary citizens. I have known several transgender, non-binary, or intersex people, and I respect them and their right to live their lives as they see fit.

Ninety years ago, the world witnessed a campaign in Germany to drive Jewish citizens from many aspects of public life as a result of animus against them. This led to very dark consequences and massive atrocities. We should not start down such a road again.