

Author Full Name : Laura Aberle**Received Date :** 03/17/2025 12:28 PM**Comments Received :**

The recent change to the passport renewal application process in regards to gender markers is regressive, unconstitutional, and sets a dangerous legal precedent for every citizen of this country. It represents an attack on the self-expression (Freedom of Speech) of people whom the federal government deems insubordinate, based on an executive order that references scientific facts that are not, indeed, facts.

Freedom of expression aside, modern science shows ample evidence that intersex people exist and that sex and gender are not as binary as we once thought. Therefore, recent changes to the passport renewal process have shown that the federal government, through executive order, can decide what is scientific and what isn't, and enforce it with legal identification documents. It would seem that the executive order is a test of the waters in which the federal government will drown our freedoms, and the Department of State is telling us the water's fine.

Then there are the immediate consequences: not allowing people to change their gender marker on their passport is dehumanizing to trans people and it will put cis-passing trans people in potential danger when they travel, because they will appear to not match the gender marker on their passport.

Even veterans of the US military who are trans are adversely affected, and are either afraid to apply for a passport or will receive an inaccurate document back if they try.

Again, forcing people to revert back to a gender marker that does not accurately identify them, after we have made so much progress in civil and human rights, is an unacceptable precedent. I'm voicing my dissent now, before the federal government has the unopposed power to silence any and all Americans.