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Comments Received:

According to the US State Department, a passport is intended to be a ticket and identification card for international travel, indicating the traveler's identity and nationality. Including gender/sex marker on a passport only as sex assigned at birth can and will harm individuals, including women, who may not appear to the agent reviewing the passport similar enough to the sex listed on their passport. This may result in searching the individual to see whether their presentation is similar enough to their gender/sex marker, which is a privacy violation.

State-provided Real IDs may allow for some individuals to change their gender/sex marker in a way that differs from their sex assigned at birth, including using an "X" gender marker. This can create discordance between state and federal gender/sex markers, thus discordance between state and federal identification documents. This possible conflict of information can create inefficiencies in airport travel and will require additional operating procedures, training, and protocols for resolving possible conflicts/issues. These increased procedures and training will come at increased cost to taxpayers. EO 14168 describes a desire to return to "ordinary and longstanding" truths about assigned sex at birth, limited to male and female. This does not reflect scientific understandings of genetics, chromosomes, and internal sense of gender. Multiple professional organizations are in unanimous agreement about the scientific and psychological basis of intersex and transgender identities, including: The American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, and the American Counseling Association. These scientific and evidence-based professional organizations agree that transgender identity is real, and denial of the existence of transgender individuals is life-threatening. Labeling sex as limited to male and female additionally discredits the existence of intersex individuals, who do not have clearly differentiated sex traits, negating their biological and genetic reality. If the federal government is seeking to cut costs, this is not the way to do it. Making these proposed changes would increase costs. I do not want my tax dollars going toward these unnecessary, unscientific changes. These changes will not protect women, and in fact will likely subject women to increased harassment and invasive policing.