

Author Full Name : Dianne Pitman**Received Date :** 03/17/2025 11:59 PM**Comments Received :**

I strongly protest the proposed revision requiring identification at birth as male or female on the grounds that it is neither fair, nor accurate, nor necessary.

The methods generally used to assign "biological sex at birth" as either male or female reflect a strong cultural prejudice (i.e., that there must be two and only two unambiguous sexes) and are well known to be scientifically invalid, since a certain number of individuals are born who have ambiguous sexual characteristics. And an observer's vision impression of infant's genitalia may not account for other important biological sex factors such as genetic make-up and hormone processes. Even if "biological sex" rather than "gender identity" was recognized to be important for identification purposes, this would be an archaic, inexact, and unfair way to determine it.

Collecting this information is not necessary for the proper functions of the Department of State. Biological sex at birth" is not a piece of information that readily identifies individuals for the purpose of passports. Many individuals, especially young ones, have physical features that do not correspond to the stereotypes of male or female. At present, American citizens are not required to dress or groom themselves to correspond to stereotypes of male and female appearance. Photography and fingerprinting, not to mention advanced facial recognition and other computer technologies, already provide far better information for individual identification than verbal descriptions. And since personhood and rights are equal for males and females, there is no reason to include sex or gender as identifying information about individuals. It may be valid for the government to collect information about sex or gender for other purposes, just as it may be valid to collect information about racial and ethnic identity, but neither "biological sex" nor race is necessary or appropriate information for confirming citizenship, which is the purpose of a passport. Including that information on a passport is an ideological imposition, a tool for prejudice and discrimination, inappropriate in a society of equals and potentially harmful to people who do not fit the extreme stereotypes.