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As a therapist who works with transgender individuals, I see firsthand how essential accurate identification is for their safety, dignity, and ability to fully participate in daily life. Updating a passport should be a straightforward process, but for trans people, it has often been unnecessarily difficult. If the proposed changes to Form DS-82 introduce new barriers to updating gender markers, they could create significant obstacles, increasing the risk of discrimination and harassment during travel and legal processes.

A streamlined, accessible renewal process that allows trans individuals to update their gender marker without excessive documentation is not just a matter of convenience—it's a matter of equal rights. I urge the State Department to ensure that any changes to passport policies uphold fairness, privacy, and the ability for all citizens to obtain accurate identification without undue hardship.