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The proposed revisions to Form DS-5504, which would require applicants to disclose their "biological sex at birth" instead of their gender, are both unnecessary and harmful. This form is critical for individuals who need to update their passports after a legal name change or correct errors, and adding this requirement only creates unjustified barriers.

Ignoring state-recognized name and gender marker changes will create inconsistencies across identification documents, increasing the likelihood of discrimination, travel complications, and employment challenges for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex individuals. Passports are essential for daily life, and updating them should not require intrusive or irrelevant disclosures.

As a transgender individual, I have faced countless challenges in obtaining accurate identification. My identification documents, which do not match my gender identity, have led to instances of misgendering, discrimination, and even denial of services. I have been subjected to undue scrutiny while traveling, and at times, this has created unnecessary tension with airport security or law enforcement. The process of updating my documents should be seamless, but the proposed revisions would make it more difficult for people like me to reflect our true gender identity on vital records.

I urge the State Department to reject this proposed rule and ensure that individuals can update their passports without facing discriminatory and burdensome obstacles. This change would not only exacerbate the challenges already faced by vulnerable groups, but it would also contradict the goal of creating accurate, accessible, and safe identification for all Americans.