

100 Dercum Dr. #8372
Keystone, CO 80435
kelly@gidreform.org

June 22, 2009

Alan F. Schatzberg, M.D., President, American Psychiatric Association
Carol A. Bernstein, M.D., President-elect, American Psychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Association
1000 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209
care/of: apa@psych.org

Dear Drs. Schatzberg and Bernstein:

I am a writer and consultant on gender diversity issues in medical and mental health policy, and I am asking the American Psychiatric Association to affirm human dignity and access to medical transition treatment for trans and gender variant individuals in public position statements.

To introduce myself, I am the author of *Gender Madness in American Psychiatry: Essays from the Struggle for Dignity* (2008) and the founder of GID Reform Advocates (www.gidreform.org). I serve on advisory boards to the Matthew Shepard Foundation and TransYouth Family Allies, and I have presented papers to Annual Meetings of the American Psychiatric Association in 1998, 2003 and 2009. I am also a transsexual woman and can speak personally to the barriers to dignity, civil justice and medical care at issue in current APA policies and diagnostic nomenclature.

The APA has a long taken strong public positions in support of oppressed minority groups. For example, in 1973 the American Psychiatric Association issued a historic position statement on "Homosexuality and Civil Rights" that had a profound impact on public opinion and defamatory stereotypes. Unfortunately, the APA has never issued a similar statement in support of trans and gender variant people, even though APA policies and DSM nomenclature have contributed to analogous barriers and stereotypes that trans and gender variant people face.

I am asking for your personal support in drafting APA position statements to clarify that gender difference is not disorder, to affirm the medical necessity of transition care, and to urge legal recognition of social gender transition:

- I ask the elected leadership and Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association to affirm in a position statement that gender identity and expression which differ from assigned birth sex do not, in themselves, constitute mental disorder and imply no impairment in judgment or competence.
- I also ask the APA to follow the example of the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health

(WPATH) by issuing a statement clarifying the medical necessity of hormonal and/or surgical transition treatments for those who suffer distress caused by deprivation of physical characteristics congruent with their gender identity. I call on the APA to urge insurance and healthcare coverage for medically prescribed transition treatment as well as ongoing and ordinary medical and mental health care.

- Finally, I ask the American Psychiatric Association to follow the example of the American Psychological Association and WPATH in opposing discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression and encouraging legal recognition of all people that is consistent with their gender identity and expression. I ask the APA to affirm in a position statement the dignity and legitimacy of individuals who have transitioned their social gender roles, regardless of their physical anatomy or assigned birth sex.

I have attached the names of well over 400 community members, leaders, clinicians, researchers, scholars and allies, who have joined me in this request through an on-line Facebook advocacy group. I have also attached copies of individual letters that I have received.

I would very much appreciate your consideration and endorsement of these position statements. Please feel free to contact me, if I can answer any questions that you have or can provide more information.

Regards,

Kelley Winters, Ph.D.
GID Reform Advocates
www.gidreform.org

Request for APA Position Statements in Support of Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

Table of Contents:

Cover Letter	1
Facebook.com Group Statement	4
Facebook.com Group Members	6
Letter from Jamie A. Koufman, M.D., F.A.C.S., President, American Broncho-Esophagological Association; Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology, New York Medical College (Valhalla NY)	18
Letter from Nerissa Belcher, R.N.	19
Letter from B.J. Kamigaki, Corporate Manager	20
Letter from Emily Sturm, Volunteer Coordinator	21
Letter from Veronica Drantz, PhD Professor, School of Anesthesia NorthShore University HealthSystem	22

Facebook.com Group: Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

Global

Basic Info

Type: [Common Interest - Health & Wellness](#)

Description We Call Upon the American Psychiatric Association to Publicly Affirm Human Dignity and Access to Medical Care for Trans and Gender Variant People.

People who do not conform to their assigned birth-sex, either by inner identity or outer social expression, continue to be labeled as mentally disordered by the American Psychiatric Association in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). As the Fifth Edition of the DSM nears publication in 2012, the diagnostic categories of Gender Identity Disorder (GID) and Transvestic Fetishism (TF) are drawing a great deal of controversy and dissent from the trans-community and supportive medical and mental health professionals. In their current form, these diagnoses inflict unfair stigma and defamatory stereotypes upon all gender variant people, while at the same time posing barriers to medical transition care for those transsexual individuals who need them.

In addition to reform of the GID diagnosis and removal of the derogatory TF category in the DSM-V, it is important that the APA issue public position statements in support of human dignity and medical care for trans and gender variant people, as it has for other minority groups in the past. For example, in 1973 the American Psychiatric Association issued a historic position statement on "Homosexuality and Civil Rights" that had a profound impact on public opinion and defamatory stereotypes. Tragically, the APA has never issued a similar statement in support of trans and gender variant people.

We members of this group call upon the APA to clarify that gender difference is not disorder, affirm the medical necessity of transition care, and urge legal recognition of social gender transition.

1-- We ask the elected leadership and Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association to affirm in a position statement that gender identity and expression which differ from assigned birth sex do not, in themselves, constitute mental disorder and imply no impairment in judgment or competence.

2-- We also ask the APA to follow the example of the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) by issuing a statement clarifying the medical necessity of hormonal and/or surgical transition treatments for those who suffer distress caused by deprivation of physical characteristics congruent with their gender identity. We call on the APA to urge insurance and healthcare coverage for medically prescribed transition treatment as well as ongoing and ordinary medical and mental health care.

3-- Finally, we ask the American Psychiatric Association to follow the example of the American Psychological Association and WPATH in opposing discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression and encouraging legal recognition of all people that is consistent with their gender identity and expression. We ask the APA to affirm in a position statement the dignity and legitimacy of individuals who have transitioned their social gender roles, regardless of their physical anatomy or assigned birth sex.

The American Psychiatric Association has an opportunity today to reclaim its compassion for human dignity and its mandate to do no harm.

Thank you for your support by adding your name to this group and your voice to this call for change. Please invite your colleagues and friends, who are advocates for the dignity and health of trans and gender variant people, to join as well.

For more information, see www.gidreform.org/blog2009May23.html

Kelley Winters, Ph.D.
GID Reform Advocates
www.gidreform.org

Group Type

This is an open group. Anyone can join and invite others to join.

Admins

[Kelley Winters](#) (creator)

This Facebook Group is located at:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

		Pam Spaulding	
			Becky Allison
Connie Berardi	Gordene MacKenzie	Raleigh / Durham, NC	Phoenix, AZ
UCSB			
	Andrea James		
		Donna Simone Plamondon	Jayna L-Pavlin
Danielle Askini	Los Angeles, CA		
		Baltimore, MD	San Francisco, CA
San Francisco, CA			
	Lore M. Dickey		
		Zythyra Basha	Gerri Cannon
Mila L-Pavlin	Grand Forks, ND		
			Manchester, NH
San Francisco, CA			
	Lynn Conway	Cosette Lee	
		Washington, DC	Brian Blake
Dylan Scholinski	IEEE		
			San Diego, CA
		Mary Ann Horton	
Ethan St.Pierre	Jamison Green		
		San Diego, CA	Michal Tee Gee Oh
Boston, MA			

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Zander Keig

San Diego, CA

Christine Burns

Gail 'Helen Boyd'
Kramer

Natalie Michèle
Murray

Manchester

New York, NY

Breanna Rose Taylor

Curtis E. Hinkle

Winnipeg, MB

Julie Nemecek

Bil Browning

Spring Arbor

Indianapolis, IN

Helen Hill

Masen Davis

San Francisco, CA

Matt Kailey

Ben Thom

Carol Robson

Sheffield

Julia Serano

Amanda Nicole
Watson

Denise Leclair

East Bay, CA

San Diego, CA

IFGE

Nerissa Belcher

Adam Wolf

Jenn Burleton

Michele Angello

Jacob Hale

Washington, DC

Portland, OR

Philadelphia, PA

CSU Northridge

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

	Denver, CO	Lisa Gilinger	Dartmouth
Brianna H Harris			
Springfield, MA	Zoe Ellen Brain	Gwen Sharyn Walcott	Angela Palermo
		Albuquerque, NM	Denver, CO
Ashley Nicole Hammans	Autumn Sandeen		
Los Angeles, CA	San Diego, CA	Genderqueer Riff Raff	John Pearson
		Santa Fe, NM	Western Arizona, AZ
Terry Hildebrandt	Candi Stratton		
Denver, CO		Stephanie Battaglino	Marie-Ève Baron
	Elise Hendrick		Montreal, QC
Jennifer Ann Nelson	Germany	Dan Karasic	
Ann Arbor, MI		San Francisco, CA	Remigio Darby
	Monica Helms		Denver, CO
Kim Dower		Joanne Herman	

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Lexie Matheson	Ar'lene D. Lafferty	Barbara Kelley	Elizabeth Schneider
New Zealand	San Diego, CA	Central Jersey, NJ	Denver, CO
Kate Bowman	Trystan G. Dean	Abigail Jensen	Darlene Fike
	Springfield, MA	Northern Arizona, AZ	Memphis, TN
Isabelle Jacqueline Saint-Pierre	Ann Marie Knittel	Christine Beatty	Karen M. Scarpella
		Los Angeles, CA	Denver, CO
Meghan Stabler	Andrea Parton		
BMC Software	Dallas / Fort Worth, TX	Bj Kamigaki	Myke Selha
			Des Moines, IA
Vanessa Edwards Foster	Antonia Padilla	Antonia D'orsay	
Houston, TX	San Antonio, TX	Phoenix, AZ	Alex Gomez
			Berkeley

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Wichita, KS

Los Angeles, CA

Chicago, IL

Amy D'Arpino

Tucson, AZ

Michael Kearns

Vanessa Vinny Prell

Tania Hammidi

UCSB

Los Angeles, CA

Carlos Raul

Jake Jakubowski

Williams

Mt. Holyoke

Alyssa Harley

Jayden McCurnin

New York, NY

Des Moines, IA

Judy Sisneros

Venessia Romero

Los Angeles, CA

Japan

Carrie Davis

Wendy C. Ortiz

Los Angeles, CA

Jessica Viker

Ac Panella

Mateo Parra

UCLA

Los Angeles, CA

Raleigh / Durham,
NC

Danielle Transsmtl

Kari Hipp Sparks

Melissa Lopez

Riley Johnson

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

	Montreal, QC	Charlotte, NC	
Raquel Gutierrez			Amy LaCoe
Los Angeles, CA	Maxwell Scott Anderson	Nathan Daniel New York, NY	Los Angeles, CA
AJ Fried	Enrique Ferra		Audrey Little
	Los Angeles, CA	Drian Juarez	San Antonio, TX
Michelle Farrell			
	Sabrina Fulcher	Lynn H. Ballen	Vania Ellison
Terri Van Bortel	UCSC	Los Angeles, CA	CSU Northridge
Kai Zehm	Wickie Stamps	Liz Bennett	Regina Mariam Wright
San Francisco, CA	San Francisco, CA	Isabella McGrath	Sacramento, CA
Jacky Vallée	Heather Susan Carr	Orange County, CA	Sheree Rose

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Colorado Springs, CO San Diego, CA

Tasean David

Maureen Aisling
Duffy-Boose

N.C. Central

Leonard Earl

Jackie Narian

Salt Lake City, UT

Kim Perrier

Justin Adkins

Lynnda Lynn

Justus Eisfeld

Santa Fe, NM

Williams

Fort Wayne, IN

New York, NY

Meghan Conrad
Cefalu

Tom De Simone

Jordan Selha

Cecilia Chung

Sacramento, CA

Los Angeles, CA

Des Moines, IA

San Francisco, CA

Frankie Palacios

Rex Rude

Anand Jay Kalra

Sean Dennison

Los Angeles, CA

Los Angeles, CA

Michigan

Salt Lake City, UT

Kevin Weber

Nichole Shannon

Mariette Pathy Allen

Tj Michels

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Los Angeles, CA	Felicia Carbajal	MN State	
	Los Angeles, CA		Regine Sarfati
Fate Gruizenga		Jericho Clippinger	Los Angeles, CA
Kalamazoo / Battle Creek, MI	T'Anne Fox		
	Houston, TX	Sherry Wilson	TransHealth Coordinators
Ariel Bustamante		Louisville, KY	Asheville, NC
Glendale High School	Valerie Derry		
		Charlene Rynee Lauderdale	Kristian Patrick Crewe
Robert E. Shore-Goss	Brynn Craffey	Los Angeles, CA	Chicago, IL
Los Angeles, CA	Ireland		
		Spencer Bergstedt	Emilia Lombardi
Marie Fairman	James Loewen		Pittsburgh, PA
Los Angeles, CA		Mylo Egipciaco	
	Raymond Rea	China	Alex Leffers

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Washington, DC Los Angeles, CA Tricia Anne Fox Allison Sinclair

Houston, TX Phoenix, AZ

Mel Petrosky Alexander Pangborn

Boston, MA Springfield, MA Joie Rey Cohen Lee Asplund

San Francisco, CA Chicago, IL

Carri Carl Cindy Lee A.

Stony Brook University Celeste Fusco Karin Astrup

Debra Pollock Sonoma / Napa, CA

Denver, CO Eli R Green

Brian Cheslik

Karlyn Lotney Philadelphia, PA

Columbus, OH

Andrew Sears San Francisco, CA

Los Angeles, CA Robert Johnson

Lisa Duggan

Fluffy Grrl Missouri

New York, NY

Paula Raissner

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Sara Pollaro	Taso Manis New York, NY	Bro. Joshua A Holiday	Los Angeles, CA
Angela Shelton Koontz	Andrew Giovanni Gomez	Richard Allan Fowles San Diego, CA	Helen Johnson
Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA		Eric Koller
Marcie Mathis		Jenny Caden	CSU Northridge
Society of Women Engineers	Cris Beam	Dayton, OH	Jessica Wicks
Sondra Martin	Gerard Koskovich San Francisco, CA	Veronica Spang Los Angeles, CA	Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN
Whitney Weddell	Billy Lane	Valerie Shields	Beth Hoffman
Bakersfield, CA	Philadelphia, PA		Los Angeles, CA
		Liliana Perez	

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Paula Santos Paige Reeves

San Francisco, CA Brighton and Hove Shirley O Bushnell Laura Hart

Bridget Striker Julia J Deedee Casto Dawn Sorensen

East Bay, CA Austin, TX Columbus, OH Boston, MA

Susan Forrest Diego Flores Roslyn Manley Ian Harvie

Los Angeles, CA CSU Northridge Orange County, CA

Christina Ann Marie
DiEdoardo

Romper Alfonso Jessenia Ayala Krick Jayla Lyn Wills

Las Vegas, NV

Baltimore, MD Portland, OR

Pflag Central Oregon

Michael Colorge

Bend, OR Gerri Ladene Michael Waldman

CSU Northridge

Fayetteville, AR New York, NY

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Felix Garnet	Toni Palmer		
Manchester	Salt Lake City, UT	Vicki Estrada	JoAnne Weber-Baligad
		San Diego, CA	
Ginger Dawn Adele Seaboyer	Sheila Coats		Nancy Nangeroni
Halifax, NS	Eugene, OR	Josephine Tittsworth	
		Houston, TX	Alicia Campese
Jennifer Aston	Terrilynn Cantlon		Ithaca College
Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Taylor Ryan	
		Hartford, CT	Nikki Jacoby
Jennifer Nytop	Rachel Katharine Zall		
Springfield, MA	Boston, MA	Roxanne Kaplan	Laura Leon
		Suffolk County, NY	
Brenda Lana Smith	Sarah Anne Vestal		Jen Henderson
	San Francisco, CA	Renae Meggitt	

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Nicole Sanchez		Catherine Burns
Incarnate Word	Dalia Bishop	Columbus, OH
		Sara Maddy Olson
	Incarnate Word	
Robert Vargas III		Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN
		Rebecca Kloek
San Antonio, TX	Monica Allen	Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN
	Memphis, TN	Lyn Burkett
Jennifer Dunn		SUNY Potsdam
		Crystal Middlestadt
Fayetteville, NC	Alexia Milena De Angelis	Denver, CO
		Jennifer Bradshaw
	San Antonio, TX	
Marilyn Elizabeth Lloyd		Columbus, OH
		Ariana Lucido
Columbus, OH	Dawson Taylor	UNC
		Connie Kauppi
	Dallas / Fort Worth, TX	
Candace Gingrich		Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN
		David Peterson
Washington, DC		UNC
	Dawnne Woodie	

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

		Washington	Golden
Maggie Bengtson	Angel Celeste Collie		Ithaca College
Monterey Bay, CA	Raleigh / Durham, NC	Katie Car	
			Rahne Alexander
Ehrika Leif	Kim Stevens	Meghan Fenner	Baltimore, MD
Boston, MA		Kalamazoo / Battle Creek, MI	
	Robbi Spanoudis		Tracey Swinarsky
Jennifer Gable		Keri Jowers	
Boise, ID	Patricia McIntire	Johns Hopkins	M. Mae Dunn
	Appleton, WI		W. Oregon
Greg Pulliam		Barbara Amelia McCready Conner	
UNC	Martha Filipic	Santa Cruz, CA	Keith Egan
			Raleigh / Durham, NC
Terri Gilman	Elayne K. Wylie	Carla Rappaport	

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Andrea M. von Kaenel	Elle Thomas	Denver, CO	K.R. Roberto
Washington, DC	Denver, CO		Denver
		David Maynard	
Maureen McGettigan	Adrienne Mansanares	Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN	Courtney Gray
Philadelphia, PA	Denver, CO		Denver, CO
		Lauren Croucher	
Gwenydd Beale	Erdem Gediz	Denver, CO	Constance Carter
San Francisco, CA	Boston, MA		Denver, CO
		Sparrow Saighman	
Bethany R. Levrault	Darlie Brewster	Denver, CO	Andee Chocho
Boulder, CO			Colorado
	Megan Laufer	Andrea Conner	
Sandra Azcarate		Philadelphia, PA	Kelly Shortandqueer
	Allyson DeNieu		

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

	Edith Pilkington	Seattle, WA	Manchester, NH
Sam Bullington			
	Zachary Moore Greene	Joe Herron	Barbara Carrellas
	Boston, MA	CSCC	New York, NY
Laura Ruhl	Sophia Siedlberg	Véronique Noelle Boulangier	Sarai Koster- Mockeridge
Donna Riley	Alex Simot	Vancouver, BC	Ann Arbor, MI
	Ann Arbor, MI		
Amara Dragonlynn		Charry Moeller	Lyle R. Anderson II
		University of the East	
Valentina Simmons	Becky Rush Hohmann		Jay Hill
Westchester, NY	Whitman	Amber Hollibaugh	
			Lisa Davis
	Cary Toland	Karyn Maynard	East Bay, CA

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

	Sarah Henke		
		Katie Berger	
Samantha Armer	Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN		Jenifer Levin
			New York, NY
		Liesl Theron	
Carmen Solari	Jamie Ann Meyers	South Africa	
Tucson, AZ	Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN		Delia Beck
			Ithaca College
Bryce Hughes		Kelli Hawthorne Cannon	
Green River Community College	Lauryn Farris	Columbus, OH	Lisa R Withrow
	San Antonio, TX		Methodist Theological School
		Robin Wells	
Tammie Huber	Diana Nelson	Columbus, OH	
Cincinnati, OH	Denver, CO		Andrew Hopp
		Albert Wade Decelles-Smith	Fiona Morton
Sydney Bloom	Miranda Henke	Montreal, QC	Australia

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

		Arianna Dupree	Lafayette, IN
Lauren Bradstreet	Tg Michigan	New York, NY	
Ithaca College			Katier Rax
	Shari Dworkin	Jeri Hughes	
Tammi Bush		Washington, DC	Chrissy Joy Bell
Columbus, OH	Joe Fraioli		Columbus, OH
	Ithaca College	Izzy Hillock	
Candis Muse		Medford, OR	Vickie Lacharité
	Matt Worhach		
Maxine Morse	Ithaca College	Dainna Cicotello	Di Felice
			Columbus, OH
Louise Maine	Genie Bud Ravital	Sarah Householder	
	Philadelphia, PA		Michael Wachter
Denny Whiteside		Jennifer A. Lewer	

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

			Caroline Garon
Penny Stacy	April Casperson		
		Tee Steele	Montreal, QC
Columbus, OH	Methodist Theological School		
		Lyn Herron	Karin Fresnel
Victoria Malawey	Cordelia Burpee	Columbus, OH	San Francisco, CA
Kenyon			
	Julia Nielsen- Bingman	Whit Hendon	Wesley R. Bowman
Terri Waugh			
Columbus, OH	Columbus, OH		
		Dee Stickle-Miner	ashley mcgovern
		Columbus, OH	Cornell
Holly Henry	Peter Hering		
	Dayton, OH		
		James Albaugh	Lis Maurer
Michelle L Terry			
	Noémie Cloutier	McGill	Ithaca College
Columbus, OH			
	Montreal, QC		

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Outlook Columbus Jeri Marshall Leonard Gwendolyn Dean Anne D Warren

Columbus, OH Asheville, NC East Bay, CA Columbus, OH

David W. Meredith Ezra Corral Dawn Swartz

Columbus, OH Columbia Columbus, OH Kelley Winters

Lauren Green Emelye Waldherr Roxane Smith Prejean Paula Katherine Prichard

Akron, OH Erie, PA Atlanta, GA Columbus, OH

Katherine Beckett Whit Johnstone David Miyashiro John Cramton

Methodist Theological School Columbus, OH Columbus, OH

Nancy Day-Achauer

Stephanie Mullins Scott Schieber Columbus, OH Claire M. Jackson

Dayton, OH

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

		UCLA	
Gwendolyn Andrix	David Hagelin		Susan Wilkes
Columbus, OH			
	Angela Scholder	Desiree Joy Bradish	Toronto, ON
		Ann Arbor, MI	
Susan Collins			Isabella Jayce
	Jordan Furrow		
		Vince Sgambati	Albany, NY
Jen Wise	Michigan State University		
Columbus, OH			
		Marla Hodge	Angie Seward
	Steven Baxter	Albany, NY	
Eileen Watters			
			Bekki Mills
Columbus, OH			
	Kymerli Martinez		Columbus, OH
	Sacramento, CA		
Melissa Marie Alexander		T.J. Jourian	Elizabeth Smith
Columbus, OH	Katrina Daly Thompson	University of Vermont	Columbus, OH

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

	Skylar Seward	Seattle, WA	Spokane, WA
Roy Linker			
	Joe Reilly	Christopher Lawrence	Marcus Patterson
Anita Latch	Spokane, WA		
Tacoma, WA		Linden Tea	Dee Ann
	Ashley Love	Buffalo State	
Steven Alan Taylor	Los Angeles, CA		Michael Brown
Murray State KY		Nemo Neminem	Phoenix, AZ
	Benjamin Woods	Switzerland	
Sharon Van Nest	Chicago, IL		Aly Lynn Linker
		Robyn Tebinka	
Larry Gibson	Gretchen Grappone	Suffolk County, NY	Cheryl Lynne
Dallas / Fort Worth, TX			
	Joe Mirabella	Crystal Ainaridi	Chris Cook

Facebook Group Members:

Urge the APA to Support Human Dignity and Medical Care for Trans People

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=92915546212>

Monica Frampton Sally Murray

Sonoma / Napa, CA

Dillar Schwartz

Molly Elizabeth
Simmons

Reid Vanderburgh

Atlanta, GA

Andrew Adam
Caldwell

Susan Ferman Austin

Spokane, WA

Alissia Rose-Pait

Los Angeles, CA

APA Gender Position Statements

Dear APA Leadership,

In spite of *gender identity disorder* (GID), a diagnosis that conferred almost no healthcare coverage, most "trans-people" have tried to do the right things for themselves. Now, it's time for the APA (DDSM-V) to go beyond gender definitions that have characterized *normal variants* as diseased. Please put *gender variation* on the bell-shaped curve where it belongs.

Personally, I believe that one's self-determined gender identity is a fundamental human right. And in all likelihood, future evolution of the species (towards non-violent coexistence) will require deconstruction of binary thinking in general, and abandonment of *the gender binary* in particular.

In advance, thank you for your consideration; I await your reply.

Sincerely,

Jamie A. Koufman, M.D., F.A.C.S., President
American Broncho-Esophagological Association
Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology
New York Medical College (Valhalla NY)
Director, Voice Institute of New York
200 West 57th St., Suite 1203
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (212) 462-8014
Fax: (212) 757-0677
jamie@voiceinstituteny.com
www.voiceinstituteny.com

From: Nerissa Belcher RN, DPM
Subject: APA Gender Position Statements
To: APA

Kelly Winters, Ph.D has posted her requests of the APA on-line in regards to GID revisions in the up-coming DSM-V. These requests are below. I strongly concur with her.

I'm currently a nurse (BSN trained RN) working for the US Veteran's Administration. You'll notice I have a podiatry degree (DPM) also. I'm not working as a podiatrist since my private practice was destroyed about six years ago when I started my gender transition. I was living in the Bible belt AKA Huntsville, TX at the time. Transphobia affects real lives to include the lives of my two children. Who, by the way, I have not seen in five years due to religious inspired bigotry of a Huntsville judge.

The APA has a choice. Will it fight to minimize bigotry towards transsexuals or work towards encouraging it? Your current goal seems evident since on the Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders Task Force for DSM-V you have hand-picked known TS bigots. For example, Dr. Kenneth Zucker (of "ex-gay" reparative therapy to "treat" gender-variant children) and Dr. Ray Blanchard who has already indicated his closed-mindedness with his "inclusive" categorization of GID as including only self-deluded gay men and perverted straight men (autogynephilia).

Incidentally, what in the world are you thinking in pathologizing cross-dressing for straight men? While my focus is on GID reform for gender variant people I wish to support the right of anyone to dress as they please so long as not indecent in public. Why does the APA support the right of straight women to dress and act masculine yet feel it appropriate to diagnose straight men who dress and act feminine as mentally ill?

From GID Reform Advocates:

We ask the elected leadership and Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association to affirm in a position statement that gender identity and expression which differ from assigned birth sex do not, in themselves, constitute mental disorder and imply no impairment in judgment or competence.

We also ask the APA to follow the example of the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association with a statement clarifying the medical necessity of hormonal and surgical transition treatments for those who suffer painful distress with their physical sex characteristics that are incongruent with their persistent gender identity.

Finally, we ask the American Psychiatric Association to follow the example of the American Psychological Association in encouraging legal and social recognition of all people that is consistent with their gender identity and expression. We ask the APA to affirm in a position statement the dignity and legitimacy of individuals who have transitioned their social gender roles, regardless of their physical anatomy or assigned birth sex.

Alan F. Schatzberg, President, American Psychiatric Association Carol A. Bernstein, M.D., President-elect, American Psychiatric Association American Psychiatric Association 1000 Wilson Boulevard Suite 1825 Arlington, VA 22209 apa@psych.org

Board of Trustees, American Psychiatric Association in care of: Thomas Graham Senior Governance Specialist - Board of Trustees tgraham@psych.org

CC

Ubaldo Leli, M.D., President, Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists uleli@aglp.org
Kelly Winters, Ph.D , GID Reform Advocates kelly@gidreform.org

Nerissa Belcher
Atlanta, GA

To: Alan F. Schatzberg, President, American Psychiatric Association
Carol A. Bernstein, M.D., President-elect, American Psychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Association
1000 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209

Board of Trustees, American Psychiatric Association
in care of: Thomas Graham
Senior Governance Specialist – Board of Trustees

CC:
Ubaldo Leli, M.D., President, Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists

Kelley Winters Ph.D, GID Reform Advocates

I am BJ Kamigaki, a transsexual woman and proud member of the transgender community from Longmont, Colorado. My identity is NOT a disorder nor am I a sexual deviant. I am joining with my transgender brother and sisters, our allies in the gay, lesbian and straight community, and others to request the following from the APA:

1– We ask the elected leadership and Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association to affirm in a position statement that gender identity and expression which differ from assigned birth sex do not, in themselves, constitute mental disorder and imply no impairment in judgment or competence.

2– We also ask the APA to follow the example of the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association with a statement clarifying the medical necessity of hormonal and surgical transition treatments for those who suffer painful distress with their physical sex characteristics that are incongruent with their persistent gender identity.

3– Finally, we ask the American Psychiatric Association to follow the example of the American Psychological Association in encouraging legal and social recognition of all people that is consistent with their gender identity and expression. We ask the APA to affirm in a position statement the dignity and legitimacy of individuals who have transitioned their social gender roles, regardless of their physical anatomy or assigned birth sex

In today's climate of economic and social challenges many governmental bodies, spiritual and religious organization, medical institutions, for profit companies, and individuals need no excuses to discriminate, defame, keep down, or cause harm to those in the transgender community. They do it for dogmatic reasons, because it helps the bottom line, and out of ignorance or hatred. They need no further fuel for these fires that have burned for far too long. I urge you all to consider the above request with open heart and mind.

Ms. BJ Kamigaki
1107 Red Oak Dr.
Longmont, CO 80501

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask the elected leadership and Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association to affirm in a position statement that gender identity and expression which differ from assigned birth sex do not, in themselves, constitute mental disorder and imply no impairment in judgment or competence. I also ask the APA to follow the example of the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association with a statement clarifying the medical necessity of hormonal and surgical transition treatments for those who suffer painful distress with their physical sex characteristics that are incongruent with their persistent gender identity. Finally, I ask the American Psychiatric Association to follow the example of the American Psychological Association in encouraging legal and social recognition of all people that is consistent with their gender identity and expression. We ask the APA to affirm in a position statement the dignity and legitimacy of individuals who have transitioned their social gender roles, regardless of their physical anatomy or assigned birth sex.

Thank you,

Emily

Emily Sturm

Volunteer Coordinator

Clackamas Women's Services

503.654.2807 ext. 305

emilys@cwsor.org

June 2, 2009

Veronica Drantz, PhD
Professor – School of Anesthesia
NorthShore University HealthSystem
Evanston, Illinois

Alan F. Schatzberg
President
American Psychiatric Association
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Dr. Schatzberg:

The upcoming fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual offers The American Psychiatric Association an opportunity to reclaim its compassion for human dignity and its mandate to do no harm. As a physiologist who has been following the research pertaining to the issue of sexual/gender identity, I am registering my dismay at the continued categorizing of transsexual and other gender variant people in the DSM as mentally disordered.

The scientific evidence that core sexual identity is biological and innate comes from multiple sources and is overwhelming. Moreover, transsexual persons have atypical brain structure and function that correspond to their felt identity. There is no scientific support for considering transsexuality “per se” as a psychiatric disorder. While transsexuality may not be common, transsexual people are natural and merely different. It is my ethical responsibility as a biologist to point out that diversity is the rule in nature and to insist that the psychiatric profession understand that differences are not necessarily disorders. Natural variations in sexuality are many and include the transsexuality that should be expected and celebrated in any population. The psychiatric profession needs to minimize the damage to its credibility in the eyes of the scientific community by doing its part to change the culture that persecutes transsexual people. The APA should learn from its past mistreatment of homosexual people and take the lead in educating the public about the natural variations in human sexuality rather than continuing its horrific complicity in societal discrimination against transsexual and other gender variant people.

1. I insist that the elected leadership and Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association issue a position statement making clear that gender identity and expression which differ from assigned birth sex do not, in themselves, constitute mental disorder and imply no impairment in judgment or competence.
2. I urge the APA to issue a statement clarifying the medical necessity of hormonal and surgical transition treatments for those who suffer painful distress with their physical sex characteristics that are incongruent with their persistent gender identity. While it is a shame that the APA is not leading this cause, it can at least follow the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association in this regard.

3. I advise the American Psychiatric Association to follow the example of the American Psychological Association in encouraging legal and social recognition of all people that is consistent with their gender identity and expression. The APA should affirm in a position statement the dignity and legitimacy of individuals who have transitioned their social gender roles, regardless of their physical anatomy or assigned birth sex. Surely, psychiatrists can help the public understand the important distinctions between the biological terms such as male or female and cultural terms such as man or woman.
4. In addition to the above three requests, I ask that the APA scrutinize the reasons for giving Dr. Kenneth Zucker and Dr. Raymond Blanchard such inordinate influence in the DSM revision process. The bizarre and mean-spirited theories of Zucker and Blanchard are refuted by the scientific evidence and do real harm to people who simply don't conform. Their arrogance and unscientific attitude should not be tolerated in a profession that claims to be based on science and compassion.

It is my hope that the APA will revise the DSM in a fashion that is consistent with the evidence from all the sciences. It is time for the APA to officially take a stand that celebrates the natural sexual diversity of our species and promotes human dignity and freedom.

Sincerely,

Veronica Drantz, PhD