

American Psychiatric Association

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November 14, 2006

The Honorable David S. C. Chu
Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
4000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

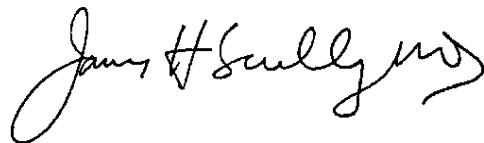
Dear Under Secretary Chu:

I write on behalf of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and our 37,000 psychiatric physician members to follow up on a matter that we first addressed on June 13, 2006. At that time, I wrote to Assistant Secretary Winkenwerder regarding Department of Defense Instruction 1332.38, which included homosexuality on a list of "conditions not constituting a physical disability" under the heading "Certain Mental Disorders." We appreciate your good-faith effort to address our concern that the document was not medically accurate – as homosexuality is not recognized as a mental disorder – but we remain concerned because we believe that the revised document lacks the clarity necessary to resolve the issue.

We read the revised document (Instruction 1332.38 dated July 10, 2006) to move homosexuality from a list of mental disorders to a list that, according to section E5.1.2.2., details "conditions, circumstances and defects" of a developmental nature. Because homosexuality is not a defect of a developmental nature, but could be construed as one by its inclusion in this section, we respectfully request that it be removed from the section – or that the section be parsed out in a way that is accurate and clear.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



James H. Scully Jr., M.D.
Medical Director and CEO

