



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Public Interest Directorate

November 13, 2006

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

Dear Dr. Chu:

I write on behalf of the American Psychological Association and its more than 150,000 members to make a further request regarding Enclosure 5 of Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 1332.38 regarding physical disability evaluation. We appreciate that you made a good faith effort to respond to our letter of June 16, in which we requested a review and updating of DoD Instruction 1332.38 to eliminate its identification of homosexuality as a mental disorder in Enclosure 5, which details conditions that do not constitute a physical disability. We made this request because the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from that Association's official list of mental disorders more than 30 years ago. The American Psychological Association fully supported the action taken by the American Psychiatric Association and urged all mental health professionals to take the lead in removing the stigma that had long been associated with homosexual orientation.

Although you revised Enclosure 5 to remove homosexuality from the category of mental disorders, we respectfully request that the Instruction be further revised in order to eliminate the continued stigmatization of homosexuality as a defect. We recommend that you make one of two possible revisions:

1. Delete the word "defect" from the description of the list in Enclosure 5; or
2. Divide the list in Enclosure 5 into two in order to clearly distinguish between those conditions that are defects and those that are not defects, such as homosexuality.

If APA can be of further assistance to you in this matter, please contact either Jeff McIntyre, Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer, at (202) 336-6062, or Clinton W. Anderson, Director, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Office, at 202-336-6037.

I greatly appreciate your attention to this issue.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Keita".

Gwendolyn Puryear Keita, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Public Interest

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