

# American Psychiatric Association

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The Honorable William Winkenwerder Jr., M.D., M.B.A.  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1200

Dear Assistant Secretary Winkenwerder:

I am writing on behalf of the American Psychiatric Association's more than 36,000 psychiatric physician members and as a veteran of the United States Navy. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) is a national medical specialty society whose members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and research of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. In addition, the APA publishes the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, the latest version of which is known as the *DSM-IV-TR*, which is the standard reference book on mental disorders and their diagnosis.

I write to respectfully request that you update Department of Defense Instruction Number 1332.38, which addresses "Physical Disability Evaluation," is dated November 14, 1996, and to my knowledge is still in effect. Enclosure 5 of the instruction, in section E5.1.2.9, refers to "Certain Mental Disorders including: ...Homosexuality." *DSM-IV-TR* does not include homosexuality as a mental disorder. Based on scientific and medical evidence the APA declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1973 – a position shared by all other major health and mental health organizations based on their own review of the science. I urge you to remove homosexuality from the "Physical Disability Evaluation" instruction.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristin Maupin, associate director, APA Department of Government Relations, at 703-907-8644 or [kmaupin@psych.org](mailto:kmaupin@psych.org).

Sincerely,



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