



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Public Interest Directorate

June 16, 2006

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Winkenwerder:

I write on behalf of the American Psychological Association and its more than 150,000 members to request an updating in the current Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 1332.38 from DoD Directive 1332.18. This instruction includes a reference to "homosexuality" in reference to "certain mental disorders" which is out of date with the American Psychological Association's position and with general mental health practice. We fully support the actions taken on December 15, 1973, by the American Psychiatric Association, removing homosexuality from that Association's official list of mental disorders and believe that homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social and vocational capabilities.

Further, the American Psychological Association has urged all mental health professionals to take the lead in removing the stigma of mental illness that has long been associated with homosexual orientation.

It is with these factors in mind that we request a review and updating of DoD Instruction 1332.38 regarding its identification of homosexuality as a mental disorder.

If you or your staff would like to address this matter further please contact 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 appreciate your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

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

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

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