
INFORMATION ALERT

October 26, 2018

The California Psychological Association Opposes Plans by the Department of Health and Human Services to Eradicate Federal Recognition of Transgender Individuals

The New York Times recently reported that the Department of Health and Human Services is planning to remove anti-discrimination protections for transgender individuals under Title IX by incorrectly and harmfully defining gender as determined by genitalia at birth. The California Psychological Association (CPA) strongly opposes any such plan. The American Psychological Association, in their similar opposition, has stated that, "decades of scientific research ... have recognized that gender is not necessarily determined by a person's biological sex assigned at birth, which can be physiologically uncertain in some cases...Reliance on the term 'biological sex' ignores the complexity of the spectrum of sex ... and the existence of people with differences in sex development."

Tremendous progress has been made in the last decade to support the rights of lesbian, gay, non-binary, bisexual, transgender and gender minority persons. Much of this progress has been based on psychological research demonstrating the harm to individuals who are discriminated against because of their gender identity and sexual orientation and based on research demonstrating the benefits of supporting individuals to live their identity and their lives. The Administration's proposed definition of gender would eliminate federal recognition of some 1.4 million Americans who have identified themselves as a gender other than the one that is assigned at birth. Opposing this proposed policy is essential to the competent care of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and is consistent with CPA's mission. This lack of recognition will contribute to increased distress within this population, and higher rates of associated negative mental health outcomes. CPA finds this proposed policy to be unacceptable and appalling.

CPA is the voice of Psychology in California. CPA's Social Issues policy states that CPA has a responsibility as a professional organization to provide knowledge from our science, along with values from our ethics, to constructively inform the public discourse on important social issues.



The Voice of Psychology in California

1231 I Street, Suite 204 | Sacramento, CA 95814 | 916 286-7979 | www.cpapsych.org

This email was sent by cpa@cpapsych.org. To unsubscribe or update your email preferences, please visit
[@@unsubscribe_url@@](#)
California Psychological Association | 1231 "I" Street, Suite 204 | Sacramento, CA 95814