



Texas Psychological Association

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Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council
Via email

Dear Members of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council,

We, the Board of Trustees of the Texas Psychological Association, are outraged with the recent action taken by the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners (TSBSWE) and the newly created Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) to redact language from the Texas Social Worker Code of Conduct, Tex. Admin. Code Rule § 781.201 guaranteeing protections for individuals and communities that fall under disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression without first accepting additional public comments, as is traditionally done when substantive rule changes are proposed.

Professional codes of conduct serve as the foundation that guides a practice. To undermine the process by which codes of conduct are established by refusing to re-publish the proposed changes and thereby limiting comments from the professionals and members of the public directly impacted by these rules is disturbing, to say the least. It forces us to question to what extent this new-found authority will be used.

Furthermore, it is direct insult to the already marginalized and vulnerable populations singled out with this action. As mental health professionals trained to provide care to all individuals, we do not discriminate based on personal values, and our state regulatory boards should not be encouraging such behavior.

This rule change seeks to deny basic human rights to the Texas citizens who are singled out by this action. It is incomprehensible that such discriminatory behavior was ever the intent of the Texas Legislature or that it reflects the will of the public.

Respectfully,

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