

November 6, 2007

American Psychological Association, Board of Directors  
c/o President's Office  
Sharon Stephens Brehm, Ph.D.  
750 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002-4242

Dear Dr. Brehm and the APA Board of Directors,

Thank you for your letter of September 7 explaining your organization's response to our group resolution and query. While we appreciate the inclusion of our requests in your recent Board meeting, we're extremely disappointed that our appeal to meet with APA leadership – for the purposes outlined in our June 29 letter – has been declined.

We are especially concerned because Dr. Brehm states in your reply that, in the interest of emphasizing science, you "will not be meeting with individual advocacy organizations."

Our resolution represents the *collective* view of many and diverse professionals and organizations – rooted in the academic, scientific and therapeutic communities. These organizations and professionals also represent varied faiths. It's unfortunate that our joint voices would be so categorically dismissed.

Consequently, we can't help but see the response as untenable. Especially given that your first published release ("Call for Nominations for the Board of Directors' Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation") clearly stated:

Several *external organizations* [italics added] have recommended that APA update its policy, because of their concerns about the continued visibility of reparative therapy practitioners and treatment facilities and about the role of advocacy for reparative theory in attempts to shape public opinion about the nature of sexual orientation and to support an anti-gay activist role in legislative and judicial arenas.

Further, bloggers of Ex-Gay Watch reported on events which, if accurate, are very pertinent to the formation of your Task Force and its charge. It's recorded that APA's director of LGBT Concerns Office Dr. Clinton Anderson (recommender of the Task Force), met with the former assistant director of *Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays* (PFLAG) Ron Schlittler, to discuss the "aggressive promotion of reparative therapy by right wing groups."<sup>1</sup>

This same report states that Dr. Anderson sought formal opinions from PFLAG and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) in September 2005 in anticipation of forming the APA Task Force. It also points out that NGLTF "never even gave their opinion to the APA until asked for it."

While we would welcome a truly unbiased approach by the APA, we feel the foundation, thus far, hardly serves objective science as you now claim.

Nonetheless, in view of your stated aims we will gladly submit published research as you have invited us to do. Enclosed is an initial bibliography of such works. We also invite your attention to the recent research of Dr. Stanton L. Jones and Dr. Mark A. Yarhouse in the book *Ex-gays? A Longitudinal Study of Religiously Mediated Change in Sexual Orientation*. Enclosed are the book and a synopsis of the study.

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<sup>1</sup> Gonzales, David. "Focus Reports Half of the Story on APA's Re-evaluation of Position on Reparative Therapy," Ex-Gay Watch, Feb. 28, 2007 < <http://www.exgaywatch.com/wp/2007/02/focus-reports-half-the-story-on-apas-re-evaluation-of-position-on-reparative-therapy> > accessed Oct. 9, 2007.

In closing, we would like to reference the APA's recently passed "Resolution on Religious, Religion-Based and/or Religion-Derived Prejudice" regarding religion and psychology. According to your own statement, religion is a diversity variable on par with sexual orientation. Many in our group represent people who organize their lives around their religious understandings, and as such warrant recognition in the deliberations which may alter your ethical stances concerning an "Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation." This population deserves to be considered and their clinical needs addressed in a manner respectful of deeply-held religious values. We believe that a meeting with your leadership would allow us to represent them fairly given that your work impacts their lives.

Should you persist in limiting dialogue and skirting legitimate religious diversity *and* scientific concerns, we will alert the 263 co-signers of the June 29 resolution (representing more than 20 million clients, students, congregants and constituents) as well as Focus on the Family's national network of psychologists and counselors. The public should be made fully aware of such emboldened professional bias.

We will continue via both private and public means to reach out to you, to other professional groups and to additional religious organizations who share our concerns.

Sincerely,

#### Organizational Representatives

Elaine Berk, Co-Director, JONAH (Jews Offering New Alternatives to Homosexuality)  
Alan Chambers, President, Exodus International  
Tim Clinton, President, American Association of Christian Counselors  
Jim Daly, President, Focus on the Family  
James C. Dobson, Ph.D., Founder and Chairman, Focus on the Family  
Arthur Goldberg, Co-Director, JONAH (Jews Offering New Alternatives to Homosexuality)  
Stephen M. Krason, J.D., Ph.D., President, Society of Catholic Social Scientists  
Richard Land, D.Phil., President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Southern Baptist Convention  
Finn Laursen, MA, LPC/Certified School Counselor, Executive Director, Christian Educators Association  
Dr. Bill Maier, Psy.D., Psychologist in Residence, Focus on the Family  
R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Jack Pike, PA-C, Physician Assistant, President, Fellowship of Christian Physician Assistants (FCPA)  
Robert J. Saxer, M.D., President, Catholic Medical Association  
David Stevens, M.D., Chief Executive Officer, Christian Medical & Dental Associations  
Bob Stith, Gender Issues Director, Southern Baptist Convention  
Phillip J. Swihart, Ph.D., Director of Counseling Services/Clinical Psychologist, Focus on the Family  
George O. Wood, General Superintendent/CEO, Assemblies of God, USA  
Wilford D. Wooten, LCSW, LMFT, Sr. Director, Counseling Dept., Focus on the Family

#### Individual Professionals

##### ***Affiliations provided for informational purposes only***

Nicholas A. Cummings, Ph.D., Sc.D, Former President, American Psychological Association  
Miriam Grossman, M.D., Psychiatrist, UCLA  
Stanton L. Jones, Ph.D., Provost and Professor of Psychology, Wheaton College  
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Merton P. Strommen, Ph.D., Founder of the Search Institute and Fellow of the APA  
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William L. Toffler, M.D., Professor of Family Medicine, OHSU-Family Medicine  
Mark A. Yarhouse, Psy.D., Professor of Psychology, Regent University