Lambda Legal
making the case for equality

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION STATEMENTS SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN HEALTH CARE[1]

American Medical Association

Resolution: Removing Financial Barriers to Care for Transgender Patients
http://www.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/hod/a08resolutions.pdf

> "An established body of medical research demonstrates the effectiveness and medical necessity of mental health care, hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery as forms of therapeutic treatment for many people diagnosed with GID … Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the AMA supports public and private health insurance coverage for treatment of gender identity disorder."

American Psychological Association

Policy on Transgender, Gender Identity & Gender Expression Non-Discrimination
http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2008/08/gender-variant.aspx

> As stated in the Policy on Transgender, Gender Identity & Gender Expression Non-Discrimination, the APA "opposes all public and private discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived gender identity and expression and urges the repeal of discriminatory laws and policies" and "calls upon psychologists in their professional roles to provide appropriate, nondiscriminatory treatment to transgender and gender variant individuals and encourages psychologists to take a leadership role in working against discrimination towards transgender and gender variant individuals[.]"
>
> The "APA recognizes the efficacy, benefit and medical necessity of gender transition treatments for appropriately evaluated individuals and calls upon public and private insurers to cover these medically necessary treatments."

American Academy of Family Physicians

Resolution: Transgender Care
http://www.aafp.org/online/etc/medialib/aafp_org/documents/membership/special/2007resolutions.Par.0001.File.tmp/2007NCSCSummActions-new-seal.pdf

[1] Compiled by Lambda Legal. For more information, contact Dru Levasseur, Transgender Rights Attorney, Lambda Legal, 120 Wall Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10005, (212) 809-8585 (telephone), (212) 809-0055 (fax), dlevasseur@lambdalegal.org.

In 2007, an AAFP Commission declared that the association has a policy opposing any form of patient discrimination and stated its opposition to the exclusion of transgender health care: "RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians endorse payment by third party payors to provide transsexual care benefits for transgender patients."

National Association of Social Workers

Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues, NASW, Position Statement, Transgender and Gender Identity Issues
http://www.socialworkers.org/da/da2008/finalvoting/documents/Transgender%202nd%20round%20-%20Clean.pdf

"NASW supports the rights of all individuals to receive health insurance and other health coverage without discrimination on the basis of gender identity, and specifically without exclusion of services related to transgender or transsexual transition…in order to receive medical and mental health services through their primary care physician and the appropriate referrals to medical specialists, which may include hormone replacement therapy, surgical interventions, prosthetic devices, and other medical procedures."

World Professional Association for Transgender Health

Clarification on Medical Necessity of Treatment, Sex Reassignment, and Insurance Coverage in the U.S.A.
http://www.wpath.org/documents/Med%20Nec%20on%202008%20Letterhead.pdf

WPATH found that decades of experience with the Standards of Care show gender transitions and related care to be accepted, good medical practice and effective treatment. In a 2008 clarification, WPATH stated:

"Sex reassignment, properly indicated and performed as provided by the Standards of Care, has proven to be beneficial and effective in the treatment of individuals with transsexualism, gender identity disorder, and/or gender dysphoria. Sex reassignment plays an undisputed role in contributing toward favorable outcomes, and comprises Real Life Experience, legal name and sex change on identity documents, as well as medically necessary hormone treatment, counseling, psychotherapy, and other medical procedures...

The medical procedures attendant to sex reassignment are not 'cosmetic' or 'elective' or for the mere convenience of the patient. These reconstructive procedures are not optional in any meaningful sense, but are understood to be medically necessary for the treatment of the diagnosed condition."

National Commission on Correctional Health Care

Position Statement: Transgender Health Care in Correctional Settings
http://www.ncchc.org/resources/statements/transgender.html

> "The health risks of overlooking the particular needs of transgender inmates are so severe that acknowledgment of the problem and policies that assure appropriate and responsible provision of health care are needed…
>
> Because prisons, jails, and juvenile justice facilities have a responsibility to ensure the physical and mental health and well-being of transgender people in their custody, correctional health staff should manage these inmates in a manner that respects the biomedical and psychological aspects of a gender identity disorder (GID) diagnosis."

American Public Health Association

The Need for Acknowledging Transgendered Individuals within Research and Clinical Practice
http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=204

> The APHA issued a policy statement concluding that "transgendered individuals are not receiving adequate health care, information, or inclusion within research studies because of discrimination by and/or lack of training of health care providers and researchers; therefore…"
>
> The APHA thus "Urges researchers and health care workers to be sensitive to the lives of transgendered individuals and treat them with dignity and respect, and not to force them to fit within rigid gender norms. This includes referring to them as the gender with which they identify;
>
> Urges researchers, health care workers, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be aware of the distinct health care needs of transgendered individuals; and
>
> Urges the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to make available resources, including funding for research, that will enable a better understanding of the health risks of transgendered individuals, especially the barriers they experience within health care settings…"

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, *Committee Opinion No. 512: Health Care for Transgender Individuals*, 118 OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY 1454 (2011).
http://www.ncfr.org/news/acog-releases-new-committee-opinion-transgender-persons

"Transgender individuals face harassment, discrimination, and rejection within our society. Lack of awareness, knowledge, and sensitivity in health care communities eventually leads to inadequate access to, underutilization of, and disparities within the health care system for this population. Although the care for these patients is often managed by a specialty team, obstetrician-gynecologists should be prepared to assist of refer transgender individuals with routine treatment and screening as well as hormonal and surgical therapies. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists opposes discrimination on the basis of gender identity and urges public and private health insurance plans to cover the treatment of gender identity disorder."

Last Revised June 8, 2012