

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION STATEMENTS SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN HEALTH CARE

American Medical Association

Resolution H-185.950: Removing Financial Barriers to Care for Transgender Patients (2008)

Our AMA supports public and private health insurance coverage for treatment of gender dysphoria as recommended by the patient's physician. (Res. 122; A-08)

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/financial%20barriers%20transgender?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-1128.xml>

Resolution: Promoting Inclusive Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation Options on Medical Documentation (2016)

The inclusion of SO/GI options with open-ended questions on patient forms validates patients' identities, allows for a more inclusive medical environment, encourages patient disclosure leading to more complete and accurate patient health information, and recognizes that biological sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation are separate facets of a patient's identity... Therefore be it RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support the inclusion of a patient's biological sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, preferred gender pronoun(s), and (if applicable) surrogate identifications in medical documentation and related forms in a culturally-sensitive and voluntary manner.

<https://assets.ama-assn.org/sub/meeting/documents/i16-resolution-212.pdf>

Policy Statement H-160.991 on Health Care Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Populations (2016)

Our AMA: (a) believes that the physician's nonjudgmental recognition of patients' sexual orientations, sexual behaviors, and gender identities enhances the ability to render optimal patient care in health as well as in illness. In the case of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and other (LGBTQ) patients, this recognition is especially important to address the specific health care needs of people who are or may be LGBTQ... Our AMA will continue to work alongside our partner organizations, including GLMA, to increase physician competency on LGBTQ health issues... Our AMA will continue to explore opportunities to collaborate with other organizations, focusing on issues of mutual concern in order to provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date education and information to enable the provision of high quality and culturally competent care to LGBTQ people.

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/gender%20identity?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-805.xml>



Policy Statement H-295.878 on Eliminating Health Disparities - Promoting Awareness and Education of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Health Issues in Medical Education

Our AMA supports students and residents who wish to conduct on-site educational seminars and workshops on health issues in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities; and (3) encourages the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to include LGBT health issues in the cultural competency curriculum for both undergraduate and graduate medical education; and (4) encourages the LCME, AOA, and ACGME to assess the current status of curricula for medical student and residency education addressing the needs of pediatric and adolescent LGBT patients.

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/gender%20identity?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-2177.xml>

Governance G-630.140 on Lodging, Meeting Venues, and Social Functions (2016)

AMA policy on lodging and accommodations includes the following: (4) It is the policy of our AMA not to hold meetings organized and/or primarily sponsored by our AMA, in cities, counties, or states, or pay member, officer or employee dues in any club, restaurant, or other institution, that has exclusionary policies, including but not limited to, policies based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic origin, language, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, disability, or age unless intended or existing contracts or special circumstances justify an exception to this policy.

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/gender%20identity?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHODGOV.xml-0-137.xml>

Policy Statement H-310.919 Eliminating Questions Regarding Marital Status, Dependents, Plans for Marriage or Children, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Age, Race, National Origin and Religion During the Residency and Fellowship Application Process (2009)

Our AMA: (1) opposes questioning residency or fellowship applicants regarding marital status, dependents, plans for marriage or children, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, national origin, and religion.

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/gender%20identity%20AMA%20?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-2503.xml>

Policy Statement H-65.976 on Nondiscriminatory Policy for the Health Care Needs of LGBT Populations (2016)

Our AMA encourages physician practices, medical schools, hospitals, and clinics to broaden any nondiscriminatory statement made to patients, health care workers, or employees to include "sexual orientation, sex, or gender identity" in any nondiscrimination statement.



<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/Nondiscriminatory%20Policy%20for%20the%20Health%20Care%20Needs%20of%20LGBTQ%20Populations%20H-65.976?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-5105.xml>

Policy Statement H-20.895 on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV (2016)

Our AMA will educate physicians and the public about the effective use of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV, and the US PrEP Clinical Practice Guidelines...Our AMA supports the coverage of PrEP in all clinically appropriate circumstances.

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/Pre-Exposure%20Prophylaxis?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD-20.895.xml>

Policy Statement H-60.919 Juvenile Justice System Reform

Our AMA encourages juvenile justice facilities to adopt and implement policies to prohibit discrimination against youth on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression in order to advance the safety and well-being of youth and ensure equal access to treatment and services.

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/facilities%20gender%20identity?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD-60.919.xml>

American Psychiatric Association

Position Statement on Access to Care for Transgender and Gender Variant Individuals (2012)

The American Psychiatric Association: Recognizes that appropriately evaluated transgender and gender variant individuals can benefit greatly from medical and surgical gender transition treatments.

1. Advocates for removal of barriers to care and supports both public and private health insurance coverage for gender transition treatment.
2. Opposes categorical exclusions of coverage for such medically necessary treatment when prescribed by a physician.

<https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/About-APA/Organization-Documents-Policies/Position-2012-Transgender-Gender-Variant-Access-Care.pdf>

Position Statement on Discrimination Against Transgender and Gender Variant Individuals (2012)

The American Psychiatric Association:

1. Supports laws that protect the civil rights of transgender and gender variant individuals.

2. Urges the repeal of laws and policies that discriminate against transgender and gender variant individuals.
3. Opposes all public and private discrimination against transgender and gender variant individuals in such areas as: health care, employment, housing, public accommodation, education, and licensing.
4. Declares that no burden of proof of such judgment, capacity, or reliability shall be placed upon these individuals greater than that imposed on any other persons.

<https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/About-APA/Organization-Documents-Policies/Position-2012-Transgender-Gender-Variant-Discrimination.pdf>

American Psychological Association

Policy on Transgender, Gender Identity & Gender Expression Non-Discrimination (2008)

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

<http://www.apa.org/about/policy/transgender.aspx>

Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People (2015)

Psychologists may assist people in differentiating gender identity and sexual orientation. As clients become aware of previously hidden or constrained aspects of their gender identity or sexuality, psychologists may provide acceptance, support, and understanding without making assumptions or imposing a specific sexual orientation or gender identity outcome.

<http://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/transgender.pdf>

Resolution on Data about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (2016)

The APA stresses the importance of surveys to collect data in order to make impactful changes in public policies surrounding mental health. The APA encourages studies to include the lived experiences of LGBT people.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the American Psychological Association recommends that research studies, including population-based surveys, include sexual orientation and gender identity as dimensions of assessment, study, and analysis where possible and appropriate.

Resolution on Gender and Sexual Orientation Diversity in Children and Adolescents in Schools (2015)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists affirm that diverse gender expressions, regardless of gender identity, and diverse gender identities, beyond a binary classification, are normal and positive variations of the human experience...RESOLVED that the American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists recommend schools develop policies that respect the right to privacy for students, parents, and colleagues with regard to sexual orientation, gender identity, or transgender status, and that clearly state that school personnel will not share information with anyone about the sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex/DSD condition, or transgender status of a student, parent, or school employee without that individual's permission... RESOLVED that the American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists support affirmative interventions with transgender and gender diverse children and adolescents that encourage self-exploration and self-acceptance rather than trying to shift gender identity and gender expression in any specific direction... RESOLVED that the American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists encourage school-based mental health professionals to serve as allies and advocates for gender and sexual orientation diverse children and adolescents in schools, including advocacy for the inclusion of gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation in all relevant school district policies, especially anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policies...RESOLVED that the American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists recommend that administrators create safer environments for gender diverse, transgender, and intersex/DSD students, allowing all students, staff, and teachers to have access to the sex-segregated facilities, activities, and programs that are consistent with their gender identity, including, but not limited to, bathrooms, locker rooms, sports teams, and classroom activities, and avoiding the use of gender segregation in school uniforms, school dances, and extracurricular activities, and providing gender neutral bathroom options for individuals who would prefer to use them[.]

<http://www.apa.org/about/policy/orientation-diversity.aspx>

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Transgender Youth in Juvenile Justice and Other Correctional Systems (2016)

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry opposes all discrimination based on gender identity. Consistent with this position, the Academy recommends that detention and corrections staff classify and house all youth consistent with their gender identity, as the youth defines it. Based on individualized risk assessments, facilities should take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of every youth in their custody, including transgender youth.

The Academy further recommends that transgender youth should be referred to by their preferred pronoun and name. The Academy also believes that transgender youth must have access to all educational and recreational programs and services available to the general youth population. Absent serious short term safety concerns, it is inappropriate, discriminatory and dangerous for transgender youth to be segregated, isolated or placed in solitary confinement due to resource limitations or the absence of an appropriate setting. Finally, the Academy believes that



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transgender youth in correctional systems are entitled to access to comprehensive psychiatric and other medical care consistent with prevailing national standards and guidelines.

https://www.aacap.org/aacap/Policy_Statements/2016/Policy_Statement_on_Transgender_Youth_in_Juvenile_Justice_and_other_Correctional_Systems.aspx

Policy Statement on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Civil Rights (2009)

The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry rejects all public and private discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity of persons of any age particularly in the areas of employment, military service, housing, public accommodations, membership, licensing, promotion or assignment, education, training, marriage, adoption, parenting, foster care, or qualification as an expert in a court of law. The AACAP affirms the right of all people to their orientation and identity without interference or coercive interventions attempting to change sexual orientation or gender identity. Further, the AACAP condemns any restriction on employment or service based on sexual orientation or gender identity in positions involving the delivery of services or treatments to children and adolescents.

https://www.aacap.org/aacap/Policy_Statements/2009/Sexual_Orientation_Gender_Identity_and_Civil_Rights.aspx

Policy Statement on “Conversion Therapy” (2018)

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry finds no evidence to support the application of any “therapeutic intervention” operating under the premise that a specific sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression is pathological. Furthermore, based on the scientific evidence, the AACAP asserts that such “conversion therapies” or (other interventions imposed with the intent of promoting a particular sexual orientation and/or gender as a preferred outcome) lack scientific credibility and clinical utility. Additionally, there is evidence that such interventions are harmful. As a result, “conversion therapies” should not be part of any behavioral health treatment of children and adolescents.

https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Policy_Statements/2018/Conversion_Therapy.aspx

American Academy of Family Physicians

Resolution No. 1004 (2012)

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. In 2012, the organization released a new resolution: “RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) support efforts to require insurers to provide coverage for comprehensive care of [transgender] individuals including medical care, screening tests based on medical need rather than gender, mental health care, and, when medically necessary, gender reassignment surgery.”

http://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/about_us/special_constituencies/2012RCAR_Advocacy.pdf

Resolution No. 508 (2016) Transgender Use of Public Facilities

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support existing state and federal laws that protect people from discrimination based on gender expression and [identity], and oppose laws that compromise the safety and health of transgender people by failing to provide this protection, and be it further RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support the ability of transgender people to use the public facilities of the gender with which they identify and actively oppose any legislation which would infringe upon that ability.

<http://www.teachtraining.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/2016-passed-resolutions.pdf>

Resolution No. 402 (2016) Diversity Support

RESOLVED, (Through the newly created Office of Diversity), that the American Academy of Family Physicians, support the development and implementation of antidiscrimination and hate crime laws and public policies that seek to support and protect victims of discrimination targeted at their refugee, immigration, gender-identity, race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability status.

<http://www.teachtraining.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/2016-passed-resolutions.pdf>

American Academy of Physician Assistants

Non-Discrimination Statement (Adopted 2000; amended 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2008)

“Physician assistants should not discriminate against classes or categories of patients in the delivery of needed health care. Such classes and categories include...gender identity.”

<https://www.aapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ALL-RESOLUTIONS.pdf>

American College of Nurse Midwives

Transgender/Transsexual/Gender Variant Health Care (2012)

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) supports efforts to provide transgender, transsexual, and gender variant individuals with access to safe, comprehensive, culturally competent health care and therefore endorses the 2011 World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care.

<http://www.midwife.org/ACNM/files/ACNMLibraryData/UPLOADFILENAME/000000000278/Transgender%20Gender%20Variant%20Position%20Statement%20December%202012.pdf>

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Committee Opinion No. 512: Health Care for Transgender Individuals (2011)

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 or 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.

<https://www.acog.org/-/media/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/co512.pdf?dmc=1>

American Public Health Association

The Need for Acknowledging Transgendered [sic] Individuals within Research and Clinical Practice (1999)

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... [u]rges researchers and health care workers to be sensitive to the lives of transgender[ed] 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 transgender[ed] 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 transgender[ed] individuals, especially the barriers they experience within health care settings...”

<http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=204>

Policy Statement on Promoting Transgender and Gender Minority Health through Inclusive Policies and Practices (November 2016)

APHA urges Congress, state legislatures, and other public and private entities to ensure that policies and practices across all sectors are explicitly inclusive of transgender and gender-



nonconforming people. APHA urges Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation to protect the rights, legal benefits, and access to services of people of all gender identities and expressions; encourages public health and health care practices that are inclusive of transgender and gender-nonconforming people; urges Congress and state legislatures to fund research to better understand and promote transgender and gender minority health, including research that monitors the effects of policies and practices on health.

<https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2017/01/26/promoting-transgender-and-gender-minority-health-through-inclusive-policies-and-practices>

Policy Statement on Reduction of Bullying to Address Health Disparities Among LGBT Youth (November 2014)

Sexual minority youth, or those youth who are perceived as such, are disproportionately subjected to bullying relative to their heterosexual counterparts...[T]o accelerate the decline of this problem and its resulting disparities, additional comprehensive efforts must be made. APHA sets forth a series of recommendations that can be used to advance policies promoting safety and providing sufficient recourse for victims...APHA Urges Congress to enact laws prohibiting discrimination specifically on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity...Urges Congress to enact legislation that will provide comprehensive, age-appropriate health and sex education that is based on science for all students throughout their years in school...Urges all appropriate federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Department of Education, to create a research agenda with broad community input. This research should be focused on filling in gaps and evaluating new and existing programs over programs, and interventions for research on comparative effectiveness across multiple populations under the LGBT umbrella...Education must include information on gender and gender identity sensitivity and instruction regarding the importance of equality and the social environment in helping students achieve overall well-being.

<https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2015/01/23/09/31/reduction-of-bullying-to-address-health-disparities-among-lgbt-youth>

National Association of School Nurses

LGBTQ Students: The Role of the School Nurse Position Statement (2018)

All students – regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression – are entitled to a safe, supportive and inclusive school environment with equal opportunities for achievement and participation. It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) that the registered professional school nurse...is a vital member of the team to support students' health and well-being and to advocate for policies and practices in the schools that provide for the physical, psychological, and social safety of all students.

<https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-lgbtq>

National Association of Social Workers

Transgender and Gender Identity Issues Policy Statement (2006)

NASW endorses policies in the public and private sectors that ensure nondiscrimination, that are sensitive to the health and mental health of transgender people, and that promote an understanding of gender expression and identity issues. NASW advocates for the availability of comprehensive psychological and social support services for transgender people and their families that are respectful and sensitive to individual concerns.

<https://www.socialworkers.org/assets/secured/documents/da/da2008/referred/Transgender.pdf>

National Commission on Correctional Health Care

Position Statement: Transgender, Transsexual, and Gender Nonconforming Health Care in Correctional Settings (2009, updated 2015)

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 jails, prisons, and juvenile confinement facilities have a responsibility to ensure the physical and mental health and well-being of inmates in their custody, correctional health staff should manage transgender patients in a manner that respects their biomedical and psychological needs.

<https://www.ncchc.org/transgender-transsexual-and-gender-nonconforming-health-care>

World Professional Association for Transgender Health

Clarification on Medical Necessity of Treatment, Sex Reassignment, and Insurance Coverage in the 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 2016 clarification, WPATH stated:

[G]ender affirming/confirming treatments and surgical procedures, properly indicated and performed as provided by the Standards of Care, have proven to be beneficial and effective in the treatment of individuals with transsexualism or gender dysphoria. Gender affirming/confirming surgery, also known as sex reassignment surgery, plays an undisputed role in contributing toward favorable outcomes. Treatment includes legal name and sex or gender change on identity documents, as well as medically necessary hormone treatment, counseling, psychotherapy, and other medical procedures required to effectively treat an individual's gender dysphoria.

The medical procedures attendant to gender affirming/confirming surgeries are not 'cosmetic' or 'elective' or for the mere convenience of the patient. These reconstructive procedures are not



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optional in any meaningful sense, but are understood to be medically necessary for the treatment of the diagnosed condition.

<https://www.wpath.org/newsroom/medical-necessity-statement>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TRANSGENDER RIGHTS:
Contact Lambda Legal's Transgender Right Project at 212-809-8585
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www.lambdalegal.org**

Updated July 13, 2018