



Leading Psychoanalytic Association Urges President Trump to Remember Campaign Promises to Fight for LGBTQ Americans

August 03, 2017 – New York, NY - Last week, the White House announced via Twitter a ban on transgender people serving in the military, while the Department of Justice filed an amicus brief in a major case, *Zarda v. Altitude Express*, which argues that the federal civil rights law, Title VII, does not provide workplace discrimination protection for employees based on sexual orientation. Both actions reversed positions of the previous administration that helped eliminate discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and seem to reverse President Trump's promises to "fight for the LGBTQ" community.

The **American Psychoanalytic Association** (APsaA) opposes and deplors all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. There is no medical or psychological reason to prevent LGBTQ people from serving in the military. In fact, such prejudice and victimization is more likely to damage the mental health of both those discriminated against and those who perpetuate bias.

Psychoanalysis is a therapeutic entity that aims to relieve suffering, promote understanding and yield healthy development. Discrimination is entirely incompatible with healthy development. Acknowledging the dignity and equality of all human beings regardless of age, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or gender expression, physical or psychological condition, or social class undergirds healthy development.

APsaA has a strong, ongoing commitment to removing the stigma that has long been associated with homosexual, bisexual and transgender identities and gender non-conformance; promoting the health and well-being of gender non-conforming and LGBTQ adults and youth; eliminating violence against gender non-conforming and LGBTQ people; working to ensure the equality of gender non-conforming and LGBTQ people, both as individuals and members of same-sex relationships, in such areas as employment, housing, public accommodation, military service, veterans benefits, licensing, parenting, adoptions and access to legal benefits; and confronting stereotypes and educating the public about the reality of the lives of gender-non-conforming and LGBTQ people.

We call on President Trump to remember his promises made during the 2016 presidential campaign and not reverse long-fought progress made during the previous administration.

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