



**AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**

April 7, 2025

Subject: Sent on behalf of the APA Board of Directors

Dear Colleagues,

As is true for many of you, we, your Board of Directors, are deeply concerned about the policy actions tearing away at the seams of human life and wellness that are the cornerstone of our field. Our psychology applied in science, practice, and educational contexts is under threat.

The recent decision by APA's Commission on Accreditation (CoA), meant to define the quality of programs, student training, and career pathways, unveiled the uncomfortable reality that sustaining a part of CoA standards for accreditation amidst federal mandates (as CoA is a federal contractor) and state-level legal changes will directly impact accredited programs, potentially compelling programs to violate federal mandates based on the 2023 Supreme Court ruling and its impacts and/or state law or to lose their status as APA-accredited programs. We support CoA in the work they have to do.

We have begun to make real strides in equity in our field for the benefit of students, psychologists, scientists, educators, and the public we serve. We know that recent mandates that have rendered illegal our long-established commitments to diversify our field are unjust and concerning. We are holding onto the tenets of our field, including understanding and integrating individual and cultural diversity in the scientific study, practice, and application of psychology, which allow us to ethically, responsively, and humanely engage our work, live our values, and fulfill the APA mission **"to promote the advancement, communication, and application of psychological science and knowledge to benefit society and improve lives."**

As your board, we are eager to walk with you and chart a way forward that grounds us in collective action and protects our field and our present and future colleagues, while addressing the detrimental impact of political decisions on the lives of people in our society. We also recognize the vulnerable groups in our communities that are reliving past threats that have transformed to everyday fears.

At the heart of APA lies an unwavering commitment to honoring the humanity and inherent beauty of all people—not in spite of our differences, but because of them. The recent passage by Council of the [APA Policy Statement on Reaffirming APA's Commitment to Justice, Human Rights, Fairness and Dignity](#) evidences this commitment. There are many historical and contemporary examples that show the dire consequences of what can result when we, even if just for a moment, forsake our accountability to humanity and our deep regard for each others' dignity. We affirm our belief that we are stronger together.

Our organizational apologies to communities harmed by the historic science and practice of psychology are a recognition of that accountability. But they are more than that. They are a promise. They are a promise not to forsake ourselves, our values, nor the people who rely on us to rigorously address human needs and honor variations in lived experiences without an agenda intended to harm or benefit any one group over another. They are a promise to uphold the scientific rigor that is our foundation. It is a promise to tether ourselves to the ethics that guide our field and hold us accountable to a public that we owe our commitment not to falter beneath the pressure to capitulate and hide.

APA.ORG

*Advancing psychology to benefit
society and improve lives*

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APA is a complex and dynamic organization with many parts and mechanisms in place to facilitate our commitment to use psychology for the public good. We need all of us to do that. We, the 2025 APA Board of Directors, commit to work with boards and committees, divisions, and other entities to ensure that no matter the challenges we face in the world, we are tethered to the mission, vision, and values of the APA.

We know that the richness of human diversity is a vital source of strength, creativity, and wisdom. As we engage, reimagine, and re-engage aspects of our work we seek to uplift these values with an unwavering commitment to affirm the dignity and integrity of each of us. We know that beyond a moral imperative, doing so is essential to psychological well-being, collective resilience, and sustainable progress which are foundational to our discipline and its work.

We stand in this commitment and in solidarity.

Sincerely,

Your 2025 APA Board of Directors

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