
American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) Supports Gay Marriage

By Mike Hatfield

The American Psychoanalytic Association went on record March 12, 2008 in support of gay marriage.

According to Ethan Grumbach, Ph.D., chair of the APsaA's Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues, "We want people to think about the broad impact the denial of same-sex marriage has on American families today. Families exist in many different ways and it is important for same-sex couples to have legal and societal recognition of their unions for themselves, their children, and their extended families."

The association justifies its support of gay marriage by citing surveys and a study claiming that children reared in gay households are no different than children from heterosexual homes.

One prominent reference cited is the work of lesbian activist Charlotte Patterson, whose research was rejected by a court in which it was presented. In NARTH President A. Dean Byrd's paper, "When Activism Masquerades As Science: Potential Consequences of Recent APA Resolutions," he describes a court case in Florida where Patterson's research and scientific impartiality were considered lacking by the judges.

The court noted:

Dr. Patterson's impartiality also came into question when prior to trial, she refused to turn over to her own attorneys copies of documentation utilized by her in studies. This court ordered her to do so (both sides having stipulated to the Order), yet she unilaterally refused despite the continued efforts on the part of her attorneys to have her do so. Both sides stipulated that Dr. Patterson's conduct was a clear violation of this Court's order. Her attorneys requested that sanctions be limited to the exclusion of her personal studies at trial and this Court agreed to do so.

Dr. Patterson testified as to her own lesbian status and the Respondent maintained that her research was possibly tainted by her alleged use of friends as subjects for her research. This potential was given more credence than it should have been by virtue of her unwillingness to provide the Respondent as well as the Petitioner, with the documents ordered to be produced" (1997, JUNE AMER, Petitioner v Floyd P. Johnson, p. 11).

The APsaA also quoted a couple of surveys of attitudes of gay

parents about the importance of parenthood. The attitudes were positive toward marriage, but these surveys hardly prove that children in gay households are not harmed by such relationships.

NARTH Board Member George A. Rekers, Ph.D., has written extensively on the impact of gay parenting on children and has testified before state legislatures on the importance of the two-parent home with a mother and father. His paper, "Review Of Research On Homosexual Parenting, Adoption, And Foster Parenting" describes the negative impact that gay parents have on their children. ■

Excerpts From Preface To *Destructive Trends In Mental Health*, Edited by Rogers H. Wright And Nicholas A. Cummings

"Why would two lifelong activists, I an octogenarian and my colleague nearly so, edit this controversial book when our lives have been characterized by progressive social and political advocacy? Why, when we could be resting on our laurels at the twilight of our careers, do something that is certain to ignite accusations that we are right wing extremists? Why, after decades of fighting to establish the rightful role of professionalism in psychology, do we now question the validity and integrity of some of the prevalent practices in our profession?"

The answer is simple: psychology and mental health have veered away from scientific integrity and open inquiry, as well as from compassionate practice in which the welfare of the client is paramount.

We decry the extremism on the right, but we do not address it in this volume because that is not the problem within organized mental health today. Psychology, psychiatry, and social work have been captured by an ultra-liberal agenda, much of which we agree with as citizens. However, we are alarmed with the damaging effect it is having on our science, our practice, and our credibility."