

### American Psychiatric Association Endorses Gay Marriage At Convention

NARTH Scientific Advisory Committee Chairman Dr. A. Dean Byrd responded recently to news that the APA had endorsed gay marriage at its Atlanta conference in May, 2005.

According to Dr. Byrd, "There's just not science backing these policies. I think organizations ought to be guided by science, not activism." Dr. Byrd was interviewed by *The Southern Voice*, a gay online newspaper.

The majority of the American Psychiatric Association's 250 delegates to the convention passed a resolution affirming gay marriage by a voice vote. The delegates are said to represent the views of 36,000 members of the APA nationwide.

The resolution passed stated: "In the interests of maintaining and promoting mental health, the APA supports the legal recognition of same-sex civil marriage with all rights, benefits and responsibilities conferred by civil marriage, and opposes restrictions to those same rights, benefits and responsibilities."

Dr. Daniel Cowell, a member of the West Virginia Psychiatric Association, was not pleased with the APA vote. "I think the rationale [for APA approval] makes sense only if the APA is involved in political issues—and it most certainly is not. This strays beyond our bounds. We should stay out of it."

In 1973, the APA removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in the *DSM*. Dr. Charles Socarides has provided a history of the events surrounding this 1973 decision in his 1992 paper, "Sexual Politics And Scientific Logic: The Issue Of Homosexuality" published in *The Journal of Psychohistory*.

According to Dr. Socarides, "To some American psychiatrists this action [removal of homosexuality as a disorder from the *DSM*] remains a chilling reminder that if scientific principles are not fought for they can be lost—a disillusioning warning that unless we make no exceptions to science, we are subject to the snares of political factionalism and the propagation of untruths to an unsuspecting and uninformed public, to the rest of the medical profession, and to the behavioral sciences."

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NARTH has also provided a summary of a 1999 article on the APA and homosexuality by Dr. Irving Bieber: "The A.P.A. Normalization of Homosexuality, and the Research Study of Irving Bieber."

Dr. Byrd's recently published paper, "Gender Complementarity and Child-rearing: Where Tradition and Science Agree" provides some of the latest scientific data on the negative outcomes of homosexual behavior and how children are impacted in same-sex households.

A NARTH-published paper by Dr. George Rekers also provides background information on the impact that same-sex parenting has on children: "Review Of Research On Homosexual Parenting, Adoption, And Foster Parenting."

Dr. Rekers' paper is available for downloading on NARTH's web site. The full text of Dr. Byrd's paper is also on the NARTH web site.