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The Minnesota Psychological Association Condemns the Trump Administration's Effort to Ban the Use of Certain Words by the Centers for Disease Control

Today the Minnesota Psychological Association (MPA) condemns the directive from the Trump Administration to ban the use of certain words by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the premier epidemiological organization in the world. While the ban is technically limited to official documents used in support of budget requests, the message is clear and chilling. Some of the words on the list appear to be there for obvious political reasons such as “fetus,” “transgender,” and “diversity.” The Administration communicates a clear and divisive disrespect for many people in our country by including these words in the list. This is unacceptable. In addition, the list also contains terms that have clear meanings for both scientists and clinicians - “evidence-based” and “science-based.” Equally appalling as the particular list of words is the attempt to restrict the speech of the leaders and scientists at the CDC, an organization universally recognized for its apolitical application of scientific evidence to both prevent and manage disease. This dictate starts the country down an ethical and moral slippery slope of no return. What is the next list of words to be politically excised from our vocabulary?

The Minnesota Psychological Association asks the Trump Administration to immediately rescind this edict and allow the scientists at the CDC do their work without political interference. In addition, we call upon the Minnesota elected representatives to the House and Senate from both parties and Senator Designate Smith to join us in urging the President in the strongest possible terms to withdraw this ill-conceived and mean spirited order.

The mission of the Minnesota Psychological Association is to serve the science of psychology and its applications throughout Minnesota so the interests of public welfare and psychologists are mutually enhanced.

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