



Commitment to Supporting LGBTQIA2S+ Individuals

July 20, 2023

The Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA) stands firmly in support of LGBTQIA2S+ behavior analysts, students, technicians, trainees, and consumers of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services. APBA is committed to [diversity, equity, and social justice](#) and “condemns all acts of discrimination, violence, hate, and oppression based on race, ethnicity, place of origin, language, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, political persuasion, culture, age, disability, or socioeconomic status.” We acknowledge past, current, and potential future harm caused by anti-LGBTQIA2S+ legislation, specifically bills and laws targeting transgender people. The recent unprecedented wave of proposed and passed legislation targeting this community, specifically trans individuals ([American Civil Liberties Union](#), [Human Rights Campaign](#)), causes harm by limiting or preventing access to identity-affirming health care, denying rights to free speech and expression, and denying full access to public education and activities. Collectively, these actions function to restrict the civil rights of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals.

It is the position of APBA that all individuals have the right to evidence-based care and environments that are welcoming, affirming, and safe. This is true for all LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and is especially important for those most at risk of discrimination and harm, specifically transgender and gender-nonconforming (TGNC) people who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; TGNC children and youth; senior TGNC people, TGNC people with disabilities; and intersex people (who may not identify as trans). APBA is committed to upholding the principles and standards within the [Code of Ethics for Behavior Analysts](#) and the [RBT Ethics Code](#), requiring behavior analysts to 1) treat individuals equitably; 2) not discriminate against others

based on individual factors such as gender expression or identity; 3) be aware of one's own biases; and 4) continuously expand their knowledge and skills related to serving and supervising diverse individuals.

APBA commits to actively seeing, listening to, collaborating with, and supporting all our LGBTQIA2S+ members and LGBTQIA2S+ individuals with whom they collaborate to provide ABA services. To that end, APBA reconfirms its [Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice](#), the statements of inclusion of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, and the actions listed therein.

Selected Articles & Resources

- Coleman, E., Radix, A. E., Bouman, W. P., Brown, G. R., De Vries, A. L., Deutsch, M. B., ... & Arcelus, J. (2022). [Standards of care for the health of transgender and gender diverse people, version 8](#). *International Journal of Transgender Health*, 23(sup1), S1-S259.
- Leland, W., & Stockwell, A. (2019). [A self-assessment tool for cultivating affirming practices with transgender and gender-nonconforming \(TGNC\) clients, supervisees, students, and colleagues](#). *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, 12(4), 816-825.
- ACLU — [Press Release: Over 120 Bills Restricting LGBTQ Rights Introduced Nationwide in 2023 So Far; January 19, 2023](#)
- ACLU — [Mapping Attacks on LGBTQ Rights in U.S. State Legislatures](#)
- American Medical Association — [Press Release: AMA reinforces opposition to restrictions on transgender medical care; June 15, 2021](#)
- American Psychological Association — [APA Resolution on Gender Identity Change Efforts; February 2021](#)
- American Speech Language and Hearing Association — [Statement: Supporting and Working With Transgender and Gender-Diverse People](#)
- GLAD Article: [Medical Association Statements in Support of Health Care for Transgender People and Youth; June 21, 2023](#)
- Human Rights Campaign — [Press Release: Roundup of Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation Advancing In States Across the Country; May 23, 2023](#)
- Human Rights Campaign — [Map: Attacks on Gender Affirming Care by State](#)
- Human Rights Campaign — [State Equality Index 2022](#)
- US Department of Health and Human Services — [Press Release: Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Reaffirming HHS Support and Protection for LGBTQI+ Children and Youth; March 2, 2022](#)