



April 16, 2020

Dear Dr. Sara Jo Nixon,

On behalf of the Asian Neuropsychological Association, the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society, and the Society for Black Neuropsychology, we hope this letter finds you safe and healthy during this trying time. The world has not experienced a pandemic of this kind in several years and the various challenges of changing our way of life is felt everywhere. Therefore, this is the time for us to come together and do what we do best – provide empathy and support.

Our organizations have partnered together to inform our nation’s leaders about the importance of mental health, particularly for the most vulnerable populations during this time, and to publicly denounce any and all discrimination surrounding COVID-19. This has also been recognized and communicated by the American Psychological Association, whose lead we gratefully follow. Unfortunately, our nation’s leaders have not adequately addressed the importance of mental health nor disparities in healthcare, much less address the COVID-19 centered discriminatory statements that permeate our society. Therefore, we would like to encourage our primary professional organization to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable populations that are being affected, including individuals of Asian American descent who may be targeted as convenient “scapegoats” of the pandemic, as well as individuals of Black and Latinx descent, who suffer from health care disparities in our nation.

The American Psychological Association has not only provided an exceptional foundation for our profession, but also continues to ensure that our profession is held in the highest of standards and provides guidance that lead “toward the highest ideals of psychology,” (APA, 2017). In line with these ideals are our profession’s principles to take precautions to ensure that our work does “not lead to or condone unjust practices,” and to not “knowingly participate in or condone activities of others based upon such prejudices,” (APA, 2017). We would like to apply these principles to protect our patients and the population at large from unjust practices and activities based on prejudices from government officials that are blatant and large-scaled. As one of the professions that has a deeper understanding of human behavior, the effects of discrimination, and the need for mental health, we strongly encourage APA to be a voice for those that do not have one.

Our goal is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of at-risk populations and to protect and care for them as a national organization. We have enclosed the letters we have written to our government officials and hope that we can all stand together to support and protect the right of all Americans to access culturally sensitive mental health care and to live a life free of fear and discrimination.



We are profoundly grateful for all you do. We are united in maintaining the principles of our profession and we stand ready with you to ensure the well-being of all.

Most Sincerely,

The Asian Neuropsychological Association

The Hispanic Neuropsychological Society

The Society for Black Neuropsychology