



Governing Board

Gayle Morse, President

Iva GreyWolf, President Elect

Art Blume, Past President

Joanna M. Shadlow, Secretary

BJ Boyd, Treasurer

Society of Indian Psychologists

August 6, 2018

Dear APA Council of Representative Colleagues:

We write this letter out of concern that the Association is considering passage of NBI 35B, and also with concerns about the removal of the Hoffman Report from the APA web site (NBI 13D).

First, the Society of Indian Psychologists reaffirms its officially approved position reported in the July 20, 2015, statement entitled, "Response and Recommendations Upon Review of the *Report to the Special Committee of the Board of Directors of the American Psychological Association: Independent Review Relating to APA Ethics Guidelines, National Security Interrogations, and Torture*," posted online at <https://nebula.wsimg.com/f885bc40a275560dacd9c04fe8b0a737?AccessKeyId=3BBC34B5002E1951E7BE&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>.

Second, we wish to express grave concerns about the passage of NBI 35B due to SIP's opposition to the use of so-called "black sites" by the US government to hold people without due process of law. The tactics being employed by the US government are strikingly similar to those used against Indigenous people in the past, such as being held without due process of law for lengthy and indefinite periods of time. Such tactics also included the use of torture against many of our ancestors, reminiscent of today's "black sites" as well. We do not support the existence and use of these sites or their tactics that have been inextricably linked to violation of human rights. Because of this position, we have great concerns about the return of American psychologists, employed by a federal government that has endorsed the use of "black sites" in which they hold people without due process of law or without ensuring human rights protections. Not only would the psychologists have clear conflicts of interest, the mere association of APA psychologists with "black sites" sanctioned by the US federal government would send a strong message to those outside the Association of tacit support for the workings of "black sites". SIP would not support any relationship, tacit or otherwise, with these abhorrent sites and what they represent.

Indigenous Americans have served bravely and faithfully in the US military despite the military being used as an instrument against our ancestors in systematically cruel ways; ways that violate today's norms concerning human rights. Many of our members have proudly served and been honored to be part of the military when engaging in the causes of justice. However, there is a line to be drawn when the military is asked to engage in US governmental policies that utilize dark tactics much akin to the human rights violations inflicted upon our own people in the not so distant past. We loathe the inhumanity and the lack of transparency of such tactics.

Third, although we understand the Association's desire to move beyond the so-called Hoffman Report, we also see the existence of bills like NBI 35B as evidence that the organization has not fully embraced the ethical spirit of the Hoffman Report. Whether we agree with the Hoffman Report in its entirety or not we may learn something from the recommendations therein. If NBI 35B were to pass, then many would consider it a step backwards in the process of responding to the ethical concerns expressed in the report. Perhaps a better strategy to consider with regard to the report is to continue to make its recommendations accessible in the spirit of transparency while acknowledging that the APA Board of Directors asked for a formal review of the report in 2016 and also providing new information on how the Association has responded to the recommendations systematically, to highlight the ethical growth of the organization through this process.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions concerning this letter. As always, as a sister organization dedicated to advancing psychology among our people, we stand ready to assist you as you meet these current ethical challenges once again.

Very best regards,



Gayle Skawen:nio Morse, Ph.D.
President



Iva GreyWolf, Ph.D.
President-elect



Art Blume, Ph.D.
Immediate Past President and Society of Indian Psychologists Delegate to Council of Representatives

On behalf of the Society of Indian Psychologists