

Petition to Hopkins to Address False LGBT Reports

We, the undersigned, demand that Johns Hopkins Medicine, including the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health, publicly disavow the recent report by Dr. Paul McHugh and Dr. Lawrence Mayer.

Johns Hopkins has a long and complicated history with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities.

While Johns Hopkins has worked over the years with many LGBT communities to improve their health and well-being and make Johns Hopkins a more welcoming institution for students, faculty, staff, and patients, there remain members of Hopkins community actively working against the mission of Johns Hopkins. Further, while Johns Hopkins values academic freedom and freedom of expression of its faculty, the institution values higher justice and scientific rigor; faculty have an obligation to uphold these values.

Paul McHugh, former Psychiatrist-in-Chief at Hopkins Hospital, has been on a misguided crusade against LGBT patients and communities. In recent years, Dr. McHugh has written a baseless Op-Ed in the Wall Street Journal in which he advocated against providing medically necessary care to transgender patients, penned amicus briefs to the Supreme Court against marriage equality, and published recommendations for fringe medical associations labeled as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Recently, Dr. McHugh and Dr. Mayer co-authored a non-peer reviewed article on sexuality and gender that is a "selective and outdated collection of references and arguments aimed at confusing rather than clarifying our understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity," according to Dean Hamer, Ph.D., a scientist emeritus at the National Institutes of Health.

This misguided, misinformed attack on LGBT communities under the protection of the Hopkins name must stop. McHugh is acting against the recommendations of the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association and, as such, is acting on his own personal agenda and not one rooted in evidence. McHugh is tarnishing Hopkins and causing significant harm to LGBT communities within Hopkins and beyond.

McHugh's actions are an embarrassment to those within Hopkins and who have trained here.

Hopkins Hospitals, in keeping with recommendations with major medical societies, now offers medically appropriate care to transgender patients, including medical and surgical gender-affirming therapies. However, the silence of Johns Hopkins Medicine, including the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health in the wake of McHugh's and Mayer's claims sends a harmful message to patients and the public that the institution is dangerously behind the times and that they cannot expect safe and supportive treatment at our institution.

We call on Hopkins Hospitals, School of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health to publicly and specifically disavow Dr. McHugh's and Dr. Mayer's statements and publications on LGBT individuals. We ask that Hopkins ensure that the rhetoric Dr. McHugh and Dr. Mayer espouse is clearly delineated as a personal opinion and not the official position -- in fact, contrary to the official position and all of the best evidence -- of Hopkins institutions.

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Summary Statistics

670 signatories

264 Alumni of Hopkins Institutions

200 Hopkins Students

90 Hopkins Staff

30 Hopkins Faculty

23 Hopkins Interns, Residents, Fellows

38 Parents of transgender individuals

References:

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