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November 9, 2011

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DSM-5 Task Force
C/O American Psychiatric Association
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Dear Task Force Members:

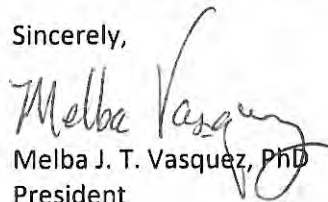
I am in receipt of your October 4 letter addressed to me and Dr. David Elkins, President of the Society for Humanistic Psychology, a Division of the American Psychological Association. Let me begin by clarifying that the Open Letter to which you responded was composed and posted by the Society for Humanistic Psychology. The Open Letter, while endorsed by a number of American Psychological Association divisions and members, is not an official policy statement of the American Psychological Association.

The American Psychological Association has not taken an official position vis-à-vis the DSM-5 revision, but we are monitoring the process, have shared information about it with our members, and encouraged them to add their voice and expertise to it. We are pleased that a number of psychologists are making contributions to the process as individuals, as members of DSM-5 work groups, and through our divisions.

We recognize that there is a diversity of opinion about the diagnostic manual. Our primary interest is that the revisions process be open, based on the best available science, and in the best interest of the public. We applaud the Society for Humanistic Psychology for the role it has played in generating dialogue and information sharing between the American Psychiatric Association and the broader mental health community. We also thank you for your demonstrated willingness to engage in such dialogue via your response to the Society's posting. We encourage you to continue to give serious consideration to input from the psychology community.

In closing, and on behalf, of the American Psychological Association Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your information sharing efforts to date. We encourage your continued dedication to an open, science-based, and transparent revisions process.

Sincerely,



Melba J. T. Vasquez, PhD
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