

*American Art Therapy response received 3/19/21.*

Dear Fiona,

Thank you for sharing our letter to the Biden Administration with the NorCATA board and for providing this feedback.

While the initial letter to the Biden Administration focused heavily on pandemic-related issues and a few other targeted asks, we wholeheartedly agree on the importance of advocating for LGBTQIA populations and are committed to do so in future outreach to the Administration and other decision makers.

During the Trump Administration, we issued numerous statements in opposition of the policies that harmed LGBTQIA populations, including [redefining sex in civil rights law](#) and the [transgender military ban](#). So far, we are pleased to see that the Biden/Harris Administration has begun rolling back these measures, (for example, [reversing the transgender military ban](#) and [eliminating](#) the memo issued by the Justice Department in Trump's final days in office aimed at stymying workplace anti-discrimination rights of LGBTQIA people). In light of their [robust agenda](#) for protecting the rights and safety and eliminating health disparities in LGBTQIA populations, we will continue to monitor the Administration's actions in this area and take opportunities as they arise to educate about the mental health needs of the LGBTQIA community.

It is clear, however, that the long history of discrimination against LGBTQIA individuals will not be so easily healed through policies alone. I would like to assure you that the AATA is committed to continuing to fight stigmas and spread awareness about the unique challenges of the LGBTQIA communities and to promote the inclusive values of this profession.

We recognize that there is still a lot of work to be done here. We thank you for providing this feedback and invite you to continue reaching out with opportunities to collaborate to promote our common goals.

Sincerely,

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