

NARTH

The National
Association for
Research and
Therapy of
Homosexuality

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Dear Dr. Collins,

I am the President of the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality. I recently learned of your distress about an article posted on NARTH's website. Unfortunately, it seems clear that you were misinformed about the article. Although Warren Throckmorton and David Roberts led you to believe otherwise, your statements were not misrepresented by NARTH.* I am enclosing a copy of the article in question which was written by Dr. Byrd, Faculty of Medicine, University of Utah School of Medicine. As you can see, the article was contextualized, and your comments were included among others. The article simply addressed what science can and cannot say about homosexuality: nowhere can I find any discussion of alterability. There is nothing in the article about reversing homosexuality or heaping guilt on parents.

In fact, in your email to David Roberts, you provide an excellent summary of Dr. Byrd's article: "The evidence we have at present strongly supports the proposition that there are hereditary factors in male homosexuality—the observation that an identical twin of male homosexual has approximately a 20% likelihood of also being gay points to this conclusion, since that is 10 times the population incidence. But the fact that the answer is not 100% also suggests that other factors besides DNA must be involved."

I would be pleased to have you review Dr. Byrd's article and invite you to let me know of any specific concerns which you may have about it.

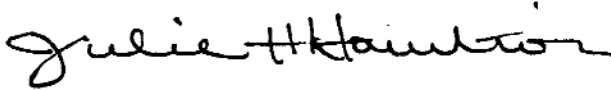
I would also like to share with you about NARTH. We are a scientific organization made up of professionals who support the freedom of individuals to claim a homosexual identity or to explore other options in their lives. The research reveals that changes of orientation and/or behavior are possible for some people. Psychologists and therapists are ethically required to support clients in achieving their own goals for their lives. As I am sure that you are aware, there are number of individuals who are distressed by unwanted sexual attractions, many because acting on such attractions is incompatible with their deeply held views. As clinicians, we provide our clients with the option of pursuing change, if that is what they desire. Although some activists would prefer to maintain the myth that people are born gay and cannot change, the research does not confirm this conclusion. Further, ethicality demands a virtuous response to the individuals who desire options for their lives. Indeed, for these people of faith, respect for diversity, even religious diversity, requires that we give as much weight to their beliefs and worldviews as we do to

their sexual identity. "Diversity" and "tolerance" ring hollow if they do not embrace different world views.

Our members have a demonstrated respect for individual worth, individual autonomy, self-determination and diversity. We are not anti-gay. I seriously doubt that if NARTH deserved such a pejorative label, that its members would be presenting at national mental health associations as has been the case for the past several years including this year at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association (APA) in San Diego. Neither would former APA presidents like Dr. Robert Perloff and Dr. Nicholas Cummings consent to give key note addresses at NARTH's annual conventions.

I hope that you receive this letter with the sincerity with which it is written. Your book, *The Language of God*, has brought joy to many religious professionals, demonstrating that science and faith tradition are not inherently incompatible. As an evangelical Christian, I testify to God's love, and it is His love that many of us who provide professional care to those who are distressed by unwanted homosexual attractions find central to our motivation to help.

Sincerely,



Julie Hamilton
President, NARTH

* The Citizens for a Responsible Curriculum forwarded a series of emails that they obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. The email exchanges were between you, Warren Throckmorton and David Roberts. In those e-mails Warren Throckmorton and David Roberts alleged that NARTH had misquoted you.