

July 3, 2018

Robert R. Redfield, M.D.  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA  
30329-4027 USA

Dear Dr. Redfield,

The undersigned organizations are writing in support of maintaining the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) optional module to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). As you are aware, BRFSS is the nation's premier system of health-related telephone surveys that collect state data about U.S. residents regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services.

The CDC provides the BRFSS to states to obtain data on risk behaviors and health conditions in the U.S. population. The SOGI module in the BRFSS — an optional module since 2014 — has been used in more than 30 states and territories and have provided the first representative snapshot of transgender health in the United States.

In 2017 the optional BRFSS SOGI module was funded by the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE). However, ASPE did not fund its inclusion beyond 2017. The information collected as a part of the SOGI module to the BRFSS provides critical data that helps improve the health and wellness of our nation. This is an extremely important source of data on these issues and is particularly relevant to shaping our response to the intersectional HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and the drug overdose epidemics.

We understand from the Williams Institute that until late in the process the draft survey for 2019 did not include the SOGI module because of a lack of funding although we understand the CDC has now found the money necessary to add the module to BRFSS 2019. Although CDC has shared with us that the BRFSS will remain as it is for the upcoming year, we remain concerned that CDC has the potential to halt the collection of data on LGBT populations from the BRFSS in the future and that the uncertainty could cause a chilling effect in which states will opt not to use the module if they are unsure there is funding available. Confirmation by CDC of its intent to capture this data would go a long way to establishing community trust and ensure that we understand the true health of our country's LGBTQ population. Consequently, we seek to ensure that sources of funding for the module be prioritized in the CDC's budget going forward.

We appreciate that the CDC has made the module available and we urge the CDC work to ensure its continued availability for states in the future. Please keep us apprised of CDC plans to fund and include the module moving forward.

Sincerely,

ADAP Advocacy Association  
Advocates for Youth  
AIDS Action Baltimore  
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts  
AIDS Alabama  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC)  
AIDS United  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Atheists

American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Psychological Association  
Amida Care  
APLA Health  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian Services In Action  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
AVAC  
Bailey House, Inc  
Bisexual Organizing Project  
Boston Public Health Commission  
Broward House, Inc  
California Center For Rural Policy  
Callen- Lorde Community Health Center  
CARES of Southwest Michigan  
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc  
Cascade AIDS Project  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY  
Center for Public Health Law Research  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Club Charley's  
Commission on the Public's Health System  
Community Access National Network (CANN)  
Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) Project  
CrescentCare  
DC Fights Back!  
Delaware HIV Consortium  
Drug Policy Alliance  
Empower U Community Health Center  
Equality Alabama  
Equality California  
Equality Federation  
Equality Florida  
Equality Michigan  
Equality New Mexico  
Equality North Carolina  
Equality Pennsylvania  
Equality Texas  
Equality Utah  
Equitas Health  
Family and Medical Counseling Service, Inc.  
Family Equality Council  
FORGE, Inc.  
FreeState Justice  
Garden State Equality  
Gender Spectrum  
Georgia AIDS Coalition  
Georgia Equality  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
GLSEN  
Harlem United  
Harm Reduction Coalition

Health West - ISU Family Medicine  
Hep Free Hawaii  
Hepatitis Education Project  
Highlands Health Clinic  
Hispanic Health Network  
HIV Dental Alliance  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIV Modernization Movement-Indiana  
Housing Works, Inc.  
Howard Brown Health  
Human Rights Campaign  
Hyacinth AIDS foundation  
Idaho Coalition for HIV Health and Safety  
JustUs Health  
Lambda Legal  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Legacy Community Health  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Love's Child Ministries, Inc  
Mazzoni Center  
Minority AIDS Council of Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun Counties  
NAACP  
Nashville CARES  
NASTAD  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Health Law Program  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National LGBTQ Task Force  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage  
NMAC  
One Colorado  
Open Door Clinic of Greater Elgin  
Out2Enroll  
Positive Women's Network-USA  
PowerSource Tucson, Inc  
Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN) PHEWA, Presbyterian Church  
Prevention Access Campaign  
Prism Health North Texas  
Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV & AIDS  
Project Inform  
Puerto Rico CoNCRA  
Quad Cities Harm Reduction  
Rhode Island Public Health Institute  
SAGE  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Siouxland Pride Alliance

Sociologist AIDS Network  
Sonoran Prevention Works  
Southern AIDS Coalition  
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative  
Southwest Women's Law Center  
The AIDS Institute  
The Chicago Recovery Alliance  
The Counter Narrative Project  
The Fenway Institute  
The Global Justice Institute  
The Praxis Project  
The Pride Center at Equality Park  
The Trevor Project  
The Women's Collective  
Thrive Alabama  
Transgender Law Center  
Trust for America's Health  
Unity Fellowship of Christ Church NYC  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
Whitman-Walker Health  
#StillBisexual