Open Letter to the Department of Education in Favor of Suspending APA's Accreditation Power

FAIR Strongly Supports Reform in Psychology Accreditation. We Commend NACIQI for its Recommendation to Suspend the APA. The Department of Education Now Has a Rare Opportunity to Bring Reform.

Convened by Fair For All – October 23, 2026

On September 24, The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) voted 7- 4 to recommend a 12-month suspension of the federal recognition of the American Psychological Association's Commission on Accreditation (APA-CoA).

Fair For All (FAIR) and we the undersigned support this recommended suspension. The record shows an accreditor that failed the students, trainees, and the patients it exists to protect. It is blind to and/or supporting race-essentialism, activist identity-politics, and discrimination of various forms, most notably antisemitism.

NACIQI is the independent Congressionally authorized committee that advises the Department of Education on accrediting agencies. The APA-CoA accredits more than 1,300 doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral programs in psychology nationwide.

NACIQI's recommendation resulted from its formal hearing on APA-CoA's renewal application, and extensive public testimony from mental health professionals, including Douglas Novotny, Ph.D., Interim Director of FAIR in Medicine. NACIQI's language was unambiguous: it found that APA-CoA "failed to address the pervasive culture of antisemitism within the programs that it accredits." Numerous committee members stated that the testimony they heard directly changed their votes. NACIQI's members, on the strength of the record and testimony before them, reached an independent judgment. That is exactly how an advisory process is supposed to work: expert deliberation, not rubber-stamping.

This matter also reaches beyond any single community. An accreditor that cannot detect a hostile environment for Jewish students has no reliable way to detect one for any student. Every trainee in an accredited program, regardless of religion, race, national origin, or viewpoint, depends on the same oversight that failed here. Testimonies and Committee discussion named various forms of discrimination.

NACIQI's vote calls for a critical step in reform without closing any program, revoking any degree, or stripping any individual psychologist of their credential. The recommendation tasks

the accrediting body with holding itself to the professional standards it expects from the programs under its oversight. The APA-CoA will retain the opportunity to substantiate later how their accreditation authority ought to be restored. The NACIQI recommendation is a much-needed corrective.

The NACIQI record and the direct experiences of mental health professionals reveal a stark departure from the field's core healing ethos, humanistic values, and ethical standards within both the APA and its accrediting body, the CoA. The testimonials during the public meeting highlight a rapid shift from evidence-based, patient-centered care to radical political activism such as "decolonial therapy", race-based Title VI violations and unaddressed complaints about pervasive antisemitism. While the APA attempted to dismiss these grievances as isolated anomalies, the failure is structural and far-reaching. Indeed, NACIQI panel members described the public testimony regarding these systemic failures as "shocking," "distasteful, inappropriate in every possible way," and "extremely deeply disturb[ing]."

The answer to an accreditor's institutional failure cannot be to shield it from consequences because the programs under its watch are numerous. As NACIQI members repeatedly said, "no accreditor can be too big to fail." If anything, scale increases the stakes of getting this right. An accreditor overseeing this many programs, this many future clinicians, and this many patients owes a higher standard of vigilance; not a lower one.

We support NACIQI's recommendation. It's a first step in a larger correction that's much needed. The Department's decision here will hopefully be a turning point toward restored trust in psychology education. It will also signal to accreditors overseeing every profession that discrimination in any form is not acceptable.

Signatories

Douglas Novotny, Ph.D., Interim Director, FAIR in Medicine
[Addition signatories to be populated upon launch]

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- Federal Panel Recommends Suspending APA's Accrediting Recognition, Overriding Its Own Staff — Insight Into Academia
- Federal Panel Recommends One-Year Suspension of APA Accreditor's Federal Recognition — Brandeis Center Advocacy
- The Federal Bid to Reshape Grants and Accreditation — The EDU Ledger
- 'No Accountability, No Justice, and No Integrity' — The Free Press
- The Inmates Run the Asylum at the Psychological Association — The Wall Street Journal