

NAPPP, Politics, and the Practice of Psychology

From our short beginning, NAPPP has taken the position that we want to avoid the type of political posturing that has bogged down other psychology organizations. NAPPP members comprise a variety of political affiliations and ideologies. Members support a variety of political issues and we do not think that it is fruitful to divert our attention from practice by engaging in endorsing or pretending to speak for our member's political views. NAPPP's concentration is focused on and must remain devoted to practice issues.

In Contrast, at the APA convention last month in San Francisco, the issue of the role of psychologists in interrogations received much press. Clearly, as individuals, many of us have a particular viewpoint on this. APA has not helped the situation due to its long history of engaging in divisive politics that diverts attention from the issues facing practitioners. Nevertheless, the issue of a practitioner's role in the detention and interrogation of prisoners is one that many NAPPP members are concerned with and, on both sides of this issue, we might add. The following statement, therefore, represents, the official NAPPP Executive Board position on the issue of what is and what is not good for psychology and practice. Clearly, psychologists do engage in activities that may not appear to be healthcare related, e.g., forensic, industrial, etc. These practitioners, however, are psychologists and the greater mission of all psychologists is to do no harm. Thus, "*doing no harm*" is the standard that NAPPP believes is the foundation of all of what we do as psychologists. The following is the standard that NAPPP will apply to all issues that concern psychological practice.

"Professional Psychology and its practice is a healthcare endeavor. As healthcare providers, the services that we offer are measured against this standard. As professional psychologists we provide services that help people and do not engage in activities that are harmful and not for the good of our patients, their health, or our profession."