



For Immediate Release
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THE NATIONAL PHYSICIANS ALLIANCE EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER THE NOMINATION OF DR. JAMES HOLSINGER, JR FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

Reston, VA—The National Physicians Alliance today announced that it has serious reservations regarding Dr. James Holsinger’s nomination for surgeon general of the United States. The concern is based on Holsinger’s apparent authorship of a piece entitled “Pathophysiology of Male Homosexuality,” which wields the jargon of medical science in support of his strong, well documented religious opposition to homosexuality.^{1, 2} If Holsinger did indeed author this document, the implications are worrisome.

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, “The Surgeon General serves as America's chief health educator by providing Americans the best scientific information available on how to improve their health and reduce the risk of illness and injury.”³

“We cannot abide a surgeon general prejudiced against an already underserved and medically stigmatized population,” said Dr. Lydia Vaias, president of the National Physicians Alliance. “It is imperative that the nation’s chief health educator publicly recognize and work to address the health concerns of all people, including the GLBT community. Homosexuality itself is not an illness and prejudice based on the religious exclusion of gay and lesbian people is not consistent with medical ethics. The surgeon general should not be a person predisposed to denigrate an entire swath of our population.”

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United across medical specialties, the National Physicians Alliance seeks to restore physicians’ primary emphasis on the core values of our profession: service, integrity, and advocacy. We work to improve health and well being, and to ensure equitable, affordable, high quality health care for all people.

To learn more about the National Physicians Alliance, our strategic priorities, and what makes us different, please visit us online at <http://www.npalliance.org/>

¹ James W. Holsinger Jr. M.D., “Pathophysiology of Male Homosexuality,” Prepared for the Committee to Study Homosexuality of The United Methodist Church (Jan. 14, 1991).

² <http://confessingumc.org/Newsletter/cmnewsma98.html>

³ <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/aboutoffice.html>