From: <u>Judy Paladino</u>
To: <u>2635 Modernization</u>

**Subject:** Proposed Amendments to Standards of Conduct

**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 12:45:54 AM

This amendment CANNOT go through without proper protections for religious conscience. Sexual preference and gender identity are NOT constitutionally protected civil rights under the US Constitution while religious freedom IS.

People are FREE in this country to live their lives however and with whomever they wish. Gay people even have the right to marry in our country! Who would have ever thought that would be possible even 20 years ago? In fact, the LGBT+ community seems to enjoy unprecedented rights, representation, and inclusion.

On the other hand, gender identity is a made-up construct. You can tell by the fact that they keep inventing new identities every day! Gender dysphoria, however, (a true condition) is a mental disorder, and people who suffer from it are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It is reprehensible that you are even considering this Civil Rights rule change. Attempting to implement it without the proper protections for religious conscience is unconstitutional and, frankly, un-American! As a Christian American citizen, I strongly object.

Judy Paladino