



September 24, 2020

To: California Legislators

Re: President's Executive Order of September 22, 2020

We write to you as the academic leaders in professional social work education in California with a concern, calling your attention to the new "Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping" which states "it shall be the policy of the United States not to promote race or sex stereotyping or scapegoating in the Federal workforce or in the Uniformed Services, and not to allow grant funds to be used for these purposes. In addition, Federal contractors will not be permitted to inculcate such views in their employees....Section 5. Requirements for Federal Grants. The heads of all agencies shall review their respective grant programs and identify programs for which the agency may, as a condition of receiving such a grant, require the recipient to certify that it will not use Federal funds to promote the concepts that (a) one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex; (b) an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously..."

The link to the full EO is: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-combating-race-sex-stereotyping/>

Obviously, the implications of this EO are potentially very concerning and consequential. As educators, we strive to prepare our students to be highly competent social work practitioners. As a society, we are coming to grips with the gender and racial bias embedded within our institutions. It is incumbent upon CA legislators and within the power of CA legislators to directly address the concern of gender and racial bias, following the new Executive Order. We appreciate the leadership that CA legislators have taken on many tough issues. We look forward to partnering with you in addressing what may be a very serious inequity.

Signed,

Nancy Meyer-Adams
Nancy Meyer-Adams, President
The California Association of Deans and Directors

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