



Dear KPA members:

The Kansas Psychological Association (KPA) is working closely with the American Psychological Association (APA) to promote legislation for training in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as part of continuing education requirements for psychologists in Kansas.

Licensed psychologists in Kansas are currently required to complete fifty continuing education hours within their two-year licensure period. Included in those hours are “at least three continuing education hours of training on professional ethics and at least six continuing education hours related to diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders.” The bill, SB 387, would have included another three hours of training in DEI, as part of the 50 CE hours.

As you may know, such a provision was included in a legislative bill earlier this year. Unfortunately, it was removed because of a mistaken belief by a few legislators that it promoted Critical Race Theory (CRT), an academic theory primarily discussed in law schools.

DEI training is essential to help psychologists meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population. The term *diverse* is defined as, “Involving the representation or composition of various social identity groups...that correspond to societal differences in power and privilege, and thus to the marginalization of some groups based on specific attributes—e.g., race, ethnicity, culture, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, spirituality, disability, age, national origin, immigration status, and language” [APA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Framework](#) (2021). Such training will improve patient access to quality services and protect consumers. Census figures show that Kansas is changing. For example, while the state’s overall population grew by 3% between 2010 and 2020, the white-only population decreased by 7.1% while the Hispanic/Latino population grew by 27.5%. It is important that the psychology workforce in Kansas be prepared to meet the changing demographics of its patient population including rural communities, older adults, and those with disabilities.

Doctoral students in Kansas and across the U.S. are expected to understand individual and cultural diversity, the needs of the populations served, and the setting and service(s) being delivered. See [APA Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology](#) (2015) and [Accreditation Operating Procedures](#) (2015). Including DEI training into Kansas law will help psychologists whose training pre-dates the 2015 accreditation standards to remain current in their competencies.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact admin@kpspsych.org.

Cordially,

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