April 8, 2016

**VIA E-MAIL (Regs@omh.ny.gov)**

Ms. Sue Watson  
NYS Office of Mental Health  
44 Holland Avenue  
Albany, New York 12229  

Re: Proposed Addition of Subdivision 527.8(d) to Title 14 NYCRR – I.D. No. OMH-08-16-00003-P

Dear Ms. Watson:

Please accept this correspondence as a comment on the proposed new Subdivision 527.8(d) to Title 14 NYCRR (the “proposed regulation”). The proposed regulation provides that no facility under the jurisdiction of the Office of Mental Health “shall provide services to minor patients that are intended to change such minor’s [sic] sexual orientation or gender identity.” New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms urges the Office of Mental Health to withdraw the proposed regulation.

The proposed regulation is based upon a false premise. The Regulatory Impact Statement accompanying the proposed regulation contains language suggesting that conversion therapy harms minors. However, aside from a reference to research on family rejection (which would appear irrelevant) and a conclusory statement by a professional association, the Regulatory Impact Statement offers no basis for this claim. Absent any such basis, it would be inappropriate to adopt the proposed regulation.

Thank you for your consideration.

In His Service,

[Signature]

Rev. Jason J. McGuire  
Executive Director