

ACP

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

March 3, 2009

Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

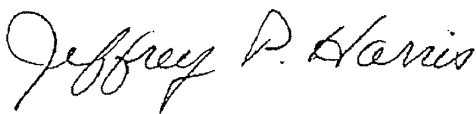
Dear Mr. President,

The American College of Physicians (ACP), the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) would like to commend you on the Executive Order *Ensuring Lawful Interrogations* (January 22, 2009). We very much agree with its goals of promoting the safe, lawful and humane treatment of detained individuals and ensuring compliance with the treaty obligations of the United States, including the Geneva Conventions.

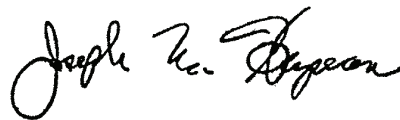
Each of our organizations has adopted strong policy opposing torture or any use of interrogation techniques that inflict physical or psychological harm. We have endorsed the World Medical Association's Declaration of Tokyo and the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Physicians have a professional obligation to advocate for the health and human rights of all persons, and must not conduct, participate in, monitor, or be present at interrogations, or participate in developing or evaluating interrogation strategies or techniques. We have been concerned in the past that physicians may have been put in the untenable position of participating in interrogations and/or contributing to the mistreatment of prisoners or detainees while providing care.

We appreciate your swift and thoughtful response to these issues and look forward to working with your administration on important issues in health care and in medical ethics.

Respectfully,



Jeffrey P. Harris, MD, FACP
President
American College of Physicians



Joseph M. Heyman, MD
Chair, Board of Trustees
American Medical Association



Nada L. Stotland, MD, MPH
President
American Psychiatric Association