



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30329-4027

December 27, 2017

Gal Mayer, MD, MS  
President  
GLMA  
1100 H Street, NW, Suite 540  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Mayer:

Thank you for your letter regarding media reports alleging that our agency is banned from using certain words in our budget documents.

As I have stated to CDC staff, partners, and the media, **there are no banned words at CDC**, and we will continue to talk about all of our important public health programs.

CDC has a long-standing history of making public health decisions based on the best available science and data and for the benefit of all people—and we will continue to do so. As part of our commitment to provide for the common defense of the country against health threats, science is and will remain the foundation of our work.

CDC remains committed to our public health mission as a science- and evidence-based institution. Thank you, again, for your letter and your interest in CDC's public health efforts. This response is also being sent to Mr. Hector Vargas, the cosigner of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Fitzgerald".

Brenda Fitzgerald, MD  
Director, CDC