

Office of the President

June 11, 2012

Dear Senator:

I write on behalf of the higher education associations listed below to express our strong support for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and to oppose any efforts to reduce NSF funding below the level currently proposed in S. 2323, the Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013. In particular, we strongly oppose any effort to prohibit NSF from funding the political science program as part of a comprehensive national science agenda.

Scientific research is a fundamental component to growing the U.S. economy and improving our understanding of the world. The federal investment in advancing our nation's scientific knowledge is returned many times over in the form of new technologies, new industries and enhancing American competitiveness in the world marketplace.

Political science research is a significant part of the national science agenda supported by NSF. Through its rigorous, independent peer-review evaluation process, NSF funds research that increases our understanding of political systems, philosophies and movements here and abroad and strengthens our ability to effectively engage in diplomatic, military and economic initiatives. Together with research generated by the natural, physical and other social sciences, political science research contributes to our overall understanding of American interests and of how to meet the challenges presented by an increasingly complex world.

We urge you to support funding for the NSF and to vote against any proposals to reduce its funding or restrict NSF support for political or other sciences.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

MCB/ldw

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On behalf of:

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American Dental Education Association
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Law Schools
Association of American Universities
Association of Governing Boards
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Independent Colleges
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
Thurgood Marshall College Fund