



# american political science association

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G. Bingham Powell Jr., *President*, University of Rochester

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July 5, 2012

The Honorable Bobby Jindal  
Governor of Louisiana  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Jindal:

On August 2012, the American Political Science Association (APSA) will be holding a major international scholarly conference in New Orleans, bringing 6000 members to the city and state. We made our decision to meet in New Orleans in 2003. Since that time the state has amended its constitution to place discriminatory burdens on same-sex couples who are married or are in legally recognized civil unions or partnerships, which has made our decision to continue with our meeting in Louisiana very difficult.

In 2004, Louisiana acted to amend its constitution to prohibit marriage for same-sex couples, and went further to prohibit the recognition even of the "legal incidents of marriage" for same-sex couples. Same-sex partners who hold legal rights, through marriage, civil unions, or other forms of committed care for each other, now face unanticipated challenges and undue burdens when visiting Louisiana for their professional and scholarly work.

APSA stands in support of the human rights of scholars and in opposition to discrimination in all of its forms. We expect the communities where we meet to do the same. The Louisiana policy and those like it are discriminatory and place unfair burdens and risks on same-sex couples seeking to attend our conference.

Some of our members who are in same-sex relationships believe that attending the conference could potentially place them in peril if a partner were not allowed to make a medical decision in an emergency situation. Other members of our association, even if they are not personally affected by Louisiana's policy on same-sex relationships, have decided to boycott your community altogether in opposition to the policy. Our association is not expecting to return to New Orleans until Louisiana acts to rectify this basic denial of human rights.

Sincerely,

The APSA council

**Networking a World of Scholars**