

american political science association

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August 10, 2004

Senator Patty Murray
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Jim McDermott
1035 Longworth HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Senators Murray and Cantwell and Congressman McDermott,

As I mentioned to Senator Cantwell and discussed with Congressman McDermott (who represents my home district) at the Seattle breakfast for Senator Murray's reelection bid, I become the President of the American Political Science Association (APSA) on Labor Day, 2004. Founded in 1903, APSA is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves more than 15,000 members in over 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe in order to expand awareness and understanding of politics. I become the 101st president, only the fifth woman, and the first member of the University of Washington faculty to have this honor.


APSA has made a renewed commitment to developing a public presence. One long-standing example of which you are aware from having hosted a number of Fellows during your legislative tenures, is the Congressional Fellows Program <http://www.apsanet.org/about/cfp/index.cfm>. More recently, we have instituted several task forces to put the best of political science knowledge at the service of critical issues with major policy implications. The first completed report was by the Task Force on Inequality <http://www.apsanet.org/Inequality/index.cfm>. We are also developing web pages for the media to provide summaries of research and experts on important topical issues, including the upcoming American elections.

These are our first steps. During my presidency, APSA would like to develop a plan of service to our elected representatives. Congressmen McDermott mentioned the need for lists of qualified experts for public hearings. He had additional ideas as well, and I am certain other senators, representatives, and their staff will also have thoughts they might want to share with us.

I am writing you first since you constitute my Congressional delegation, and I welcome your reactions at this time. After the national election, you will get another solicitation—for a meeting APSA will hold to elicit ideas and guidance. I hope that you, your staff, or others that you suggest will be able to attend.

Thank you in advance for your help on this.

Sincerely,



Margaret Levi
President-Elect, APSA

APSA Council, 2003-2004

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