



APSA Statement on Reports of Language Restrictions at the CDC

The American Political Science Association, a membership association of over 12,000 political scientists, expresses deep concern regarding reports that officials at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) received guidance banning several terms, including “evidence-based,” “science-based,” and “diversity,” from use in budget proposals for fiscal year 2019. Although the nature and source of the guidance is in dispute, any request that federal scientists and policymakers alter their research and or budget request in a way that obstructs the free exchange of ideas and chills scientific inquiry inside and outside government is unacceptable.

The CDC’s own [scientific integrity policy](#) notes that the “CDC has a responsibility to conduct the best science and is committed to disseminating scientific findings and results without being influenced by policy or political issues.” We urge the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other federal agencies to reiterate their commitment to scientific freedom, evidence-based policymaking, and freedom of expression.