

To: The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair, United States Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patty Murray, Vice Chair, United States Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Members of the United States Committee on Appropriations

Dear Honorable Senators,

We, Presidents of the American Political Science Association, write in our individual capacities to express our deep appreciation for your unwavering support of the United States' science and technology enterprise in the FY2026 federal budget appropriations, including important, if reduced, support for the social and behavioral sciences. We also respectfully ask for your continued support to prevent the nearly irreparable disruption that is impending at National Science Foundation now, in particular, the apparent dismantling of the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, along with the administration's proposed "zeroing" of the budget for SBE and massive reductions for NSF generally.

The federal government has played the major leadership role in making the US the world's leader in science and technology since the publication of Vannevar's Bush's *Science, the Endless Frontier* (1945) and the subsequent creation of NSF. The social and behavioral sciences have long been a major world leader in their domains, with research supported by SBE leading to massive increases in understanding of humans and our societies and improving the lives of people in the US and around the world. In the current rapidly changing world, whether it is from AI or other advances, continued support for SBE is critical for the US to maintain its position of world leadership. The social and behavioral sciences are critical elements of interdisciplinary science and technology across all fields.

We fully understand that it is your decisions that shape funding for all the sciences. It is therefore with some alarm that we observe action under the leadership of the interim Director of NSF that is seeming to have the effect of eliminating SBE without consideration let alone decisions made by the Congress.

We therefore respectively urge that you ensure that SBE maintains its capacity to work through FY2026 and thereby continue scientific advances. We also respectively urge you to ensure substantial funding for NSF in general and SBE in particular in FY 2027.

Respectfully Submitted (year of presidency),

Robert	Keohane	1999-2000
Robert	Putnam	2001-2202
Theda	Skocpol	2002-2003
Margaret	Levi	2004-2005
Ira	Katznelson	2005-2006
Robert	Axelrod	2006-2007
Dianne	Pinderhughes	2007-2008
Peter	Katzenstein	2008-2009
Henry E.	Brady	2009-2010
Carole	Pateman	2010-2011

G. Bingham	Powell	2011-2012
Jane	Mansbridge	2012-2013
John	Aldrich	2013-2014
Rodney E.	Hero	2014-2015
Jennifer	Hochschild	2015-2016
David A.	Lake	2016-2017
Kathleen	Thelen	2017-2018
Rogers	Smith	2018-2019
Paula D.	McClain	2019-2020
Janet	Box-Steffensmeier	2020-2021
John	Ishiyama	2021-2022
Lisa	Martin	2022-2023
Mark E.	Warren	2023-2024
Taeku	Lee	2024-2025
Susan	Stokes	2025-2026
Beth	Simmons	2026-2027