



May 30, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

I am writing to urge you to take an active leadership role in opposing the Flake Amendment to the fiscal year 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill. This amendment would eliminate federal funding for “political science” research at the National Science Foundation (NSF). If enacted into law, this amendment would set an extraordinary and disturbing precedent in which Congress chooses which scientific disciplines should be funded and not funded within the NSF’s research portfolio.

Based in Thousand Oaks, CA, SAGE Publications is the world’s largest publisher of social and behavioral science journals. Our publishing spans most disciplines in the social sciences, including political science. SAGE publishes on behalf of more than 310 societies and associations globally including more than 150 in the US alone. We employ more than 500 people in the U.S., including approximately 380 people in California.

SAGE occupies a unique space in the publishing world, and we consider as part of our larger community the authors and professional societies involved the publication of our journals. For these reasons, we share their concerns about the House passage of an amendment offered by Representative Jeff Flake (R-AZ) that would prohibit funding for the Political Science Program, essentially disrupting NSF’s world-renowned peer-review model by picking and choosing the kinds of sciences that would be funded.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has affirmed that political science is an essential component to the nation’s comprehensive scientific research agenda. Political science research fosters a better understanding of how our democracy functions, and how we can improve upon it through more civil public discourse, better governance and responsible citizenship. Research at NSF on political science also has contributed significantly to our understanding of political systems around the world – an understanding that is essential to guiding foreign and national security policy decisions. Eliminating this funding would impede our ability to analyze and respond to the complex and dynamic trends in both international terrorism and the emergence of democratic movements in volatile regions of the world.

SAGE Publications Inc
2455 Teller Road
Thousand Oaks CA 91320
Phone 805.499.0721
Fax 805.499.0871
www.sagepub.com



Please oppose any amendments similar to the Flake Amendment when the fiscal year 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill comes before the full Senate for consideration. SAGE appreciates your support for the NSF's social, behavioral and economic science budget, and encourages you to take an active role in opposing the Flake Amendment or similar attempts to micromanage NSF's research portfolio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blaise Simqu', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Blaise Simqu
President & CEO, SAGE

SAGE Publications Inc
2455 Teller Road
Thousand Oaks CA 91320
Phone 805.499.0721
Fax 805.499.0871
www.sagepub.com