



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

February 10, 2005

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0541

Dear Congressman Lewis,

Since 9/11 psychologists and other behavioral and social scientists have searched for and taken advantage of opportunities to contribute to the nations counter terrorism and homeland security agenda by conducting and applying relevant scientific research. Today I'm writing to alert you to a parallel effort that has recently come to fruition under the auspices of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) in the form of a report entitled "Combating Terrorism: Research Priorities in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences" (see attached OSTP press release). The report is especially noteworthy because it places the Executive Branch imprimatur on the conclusion that behavioral and social sciences have, and are developing, knowledge that is key to informing U.S. policies on counterterrorism.

The NSTC effort dates back to early 2002 when Dr. John Marburger, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), announced the formation of an NSTC Anti-Terrorism Task Force with four working groups, one of which was dedicated to mapping out a multi-year social science research and development agenda for homeland security. The Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBES) Subcommittee of the NSTC Committees on Science and Homeland and National Security subsumed the task of that Work Group in November of 2003.

The report is available at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy website: <http://www.ostp.gov/nstc/html/terror.pdf> and highlights a range of research priorities organized around the temporal phases of terrorist attacks: prediction, preparation, response and recovery. Because of the critical role your committee has assumed in funding programs related to counterterrorism and homeland security, I believe this report will serve as an invaluable resource. Like you, we are very interested in making sure that science is used to inform counter terrorism and homeland security policies and the American Psychological Association stands ready as your conduit to the behavioral science community.

If you have further questions about the role of psychological and behavioral science as it applies to these issues, please feel free to contact Dr. Geoff Mumford, Director of Science Policy at (202) 336.6067 or gmumford@apa.org

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