
From: Heather Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 4:01 PM
To: APA Policy List
Subject: VOTE YES on McCain-Feinstein Anti-Torture Amendment #1899 to FY16 NDAA

The American Psychological Association (APA), the world's largest organization of psychologists with 122,500 members and affiliates, urges Senators to VOTE YES on the McCain-Feinstein Amendment #1889 to the Fiscal Year 2016 defense authorization bill. Among its key provisions, the Senators' amendment: 1) reaffirms the prohibition on torture of detainees in U.S. custody; 2) limits interrogation techniques or any treatment related to interrogation to those included in the Army Field Manual; 3) broadens the scope of the prohibition against torture to explicitly include all U.S. government entities; and 4) mandates periodic review of the Army Field Manual to ensure it reflects "current, evidence-based, best practices for interrogation that are designed to elicit reliable and voluntary statements and do not involve the use or threat of force."

APA is an accredited non-governmental organization at the United Nations (UN) and is committed to promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Dating back to 1985, APA's policy "condemns torture wherever it occurs" and supports the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

APA supported Senator McCain's similar amendment to the Detainee Welfare Act of 2005 and the inclusion of its provisions in the 2009 Presidential Executive Order "Ensuring Lawful Interrogations." Our support for this current amendment is based once again on our fundamental mission to protect and promote human welfare and in recognition of the many psychologists working on behalf of our national security interests. Our APA ethics code requires psychologists to respect the dignity and worth of all individuals and to strive for the preservation and protection of fundamental human rights.

For more information, please contact Dr. Heather O'Beirne Kelly, APA's lead psychologist for military and veterans policy, at 202.336.5932 or hkelly@apa.org.

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