



May 20, 2015

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space and Technology
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Johnson:

On behalf of the Population Association of America (PAA) and the Association of Population Centers (APC), two affiliated organizations that together represent more than 3,000 population research scientists nationwide, we would like to express our support for the amendment in the nature of a substitute that you have prepared to offer during floor debate of H.R. 1806, the *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015*.

PAA and APC remain deeply concerned about the direction that H.R. 1806 has taken, particularly with regard to the National Science Foundation (NSF). As we articulated in the attached statement that was released on April 21, 2015, we believe that setting directorate-specific funding limits into statutory language is misguided, would set a damaging precedent and would severely undermine the NSF's ability to set a coherent research agenda and to fully support interdisciplinary research. Moreover, we believe the steep cuts to the Social, Behavioral and Economics (SBE) Directorate ignores the extremely valuable contribution that the social sciences—including population research—contribute to the nation's scientific enterprise.

NSF is the nation's only science agency whose Congressionally-chartered mission is to support fundamental science across all disciplines. We appreciate your steadfast support for NSF, and your leadership to bring about a legislative solution that addresses the concerns that we and many other scientific and research university-based organizations have raised. We remain committed to working with you and your staff in this regard as H.R. 1806 advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Steve Ruggles, Ph.D.
President
Population Association of America

Lisa Berkman, Ph.D.
President
Association of Population Centers