AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

July 30, 2015

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith:

We are writing on behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA) to provide you with the report of an independent review commissioned by our association to investigate allegations reported in national media that actions of the association facilitated the Bush administration's "enhanced interrogation" program during the global war on terror.

This independent review was initiated last November and conducted by attorney David Hoffman of Sidley Austin. At the outset, APA's Board of Directors made a commitment to fully cooperate with the investigation. The report of the independent review found that there was undisclosed coordination between some APA leaders (including senior staff) and some Department of Defense psychologists that might have resulted in weaker association anti-torture policies and less restrictive ethical guidance for military psychologists in national security settings. The report and related documents can be accessed on the APA website at: http://www.apa.org/independent-review/index.aspx.

In response to the findings of the independent review, APA took immediate action by terminating the Director of the Ethics Office. Other senior staff have since announced their plans to resign or retire. Furthermore, our association is recommitting to our core values of human rights and social justice and strengthening our efforts to advance these principles through our policies, education, advocacy, and inter-organizational initiatives.

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please feel free to contact us through Papa Andoh in APA's Executive Office at pandoh@apa.org.

In closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank and commend you for your committee leadership roles in the vital area of national security.

Sincerely,

Nadine J. Kaslow

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