AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

October 28, 2005

The Honorable John Murtha
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Murtha:

On behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA), a scientific and professional association of more than 150,000 members and affiliates, I ask for your support of Sen. John McCain's amendment calling for the prohibition on cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of U.S. detainees and for uniform standards for interrogation within the Department of Defense. Our support for this important amendment is based on our fundamental mission to protect and promote human welfare and 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. In addition, a 1986 resolution of our APA Council of Representatives, the governing body of the association, supports the U.N. Declaration and Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the U.N. Principles of Medical Ethics. More recently, in June of 2005, the Council reaffirmed this resolution through its endorsement of the report of our APA Presidential Task Force on Psychological Ethics and National Security.

A large number of APA member psychologists serve in scientific and clinical roles within DoD, and APA has been involved for decades in issues important to military personnel and their families. We look forward to continued collaboration with you and your Subcommittee staff on topics critical to both human rights and national security, and again encourage you to show your commitment through support of Sen. McCain's amendment.

Sincerely,

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Chief Executive Officer

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