



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Nov. 22, 2016

The Honorable John McCain
U.S. Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

I am writing on behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA) to express our strong support for your recent statement pledging that the United States will not waterboard national security detainees and reiterating your opposition to torture. APA is adamantly opposed to torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment because they are morally reprehensible and, as you have stated many times, are not effective in eliciting useful information.

APA voiced support for the amendment you and Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced in 2015 that reaffirmed the statutory prohibition on the torture of detainees in U.S. custody. We were gratified when President Obama signed it into law as part of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. Enactment of that amendment was a major step toward affirming our country's commitment to basic human rights.

APA stands with you in urging the incoming Trump administration and Congress to ensure that detainees in U.S. custody are treated fairly and humanely, while granting all rights guaranteed to them under the U.S. Constitution, the U.N. Convention Against Torture and the Geneva Conventions.

Our support for your position against waterboarding and other forms of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment reflects APA's fundamental mission to protect and promote human welfare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan H. McDaniel (PhD)".

Susan H. McDaniel, PhD, ABPP
President

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