



RICHARD H. BRODHEAD, PRESIDENT  
DUKE UNIVERSITY



THOMAS W. ROSS, PRESIDENT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

May 25, 2012

The Honorable Richard Burr  
United States Senate  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

We were disheartened to see Congress slash appropriations for federally funded social science research in this country, and we write to ask for your support for these important programs. In particular, we urge you to oppose any effort to cut funding to the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Political Science Program during the Senate's consideration of the Fiscal Year 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill.

For over 50 years, NSF support for peer-reviewed political science research has advanced and enhanced our nation's understanding of citizenship, government and political systems, both here and abroad. Studies regarding domestic and international conflict, democratization and regime transition, and the impact of natural disasters on local communities have provided valuable information for our nation's policymakers, as well as a more comprehensive understanding of the social, political, and cultural dynamics both in the U.S. and across the world. The program also supports research experiences for undergraduate students who plan to continue into graduate and doctoral studies in the field of political science.

Universities in North Carolina, both large and small, have received roughly \$8 million through the NSF Political Science Program. This funding has supported research in a number of complex policy issues, including:

- international election monitoring;
- political representation of and by women and racial/ethnic minorities;
- constitutional design in developing nation-states;
- the impact of the threat or imposition of economic sanctions; and
- the dynamics of insurgency.

Although the budget for the NSF Political Science Program is relatively small, it supports inquiry into some of the most critical issues facing our global society. We urge your strong support for political science research sponsored by the NSF, and we greatly appreciate your attention to this matter.

With best wishes,

*Richard H. Brodhead*

Richard H. Brodhead

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Ross", enclosed within a faint rectangular border.

Thomas W. Ross