



December 21, 2016

General John F. Kelly
Office of the President-elect
1800 F St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear General Kelly,

I write today on behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society, to offer you any and all assistance in accessing the scientific resources and technological know-how that you may need as Secretary of Homeland Security to address the country's most pressing challenges.

As Secretary, you will be leading a Department that can benefit tremendously from the outcomes of scientific research and input from scientists and engineers across a range of fields. We encourage you to appoint leading scientists and engineers to key posts on your team to ensure you have timely scientific and technical input on the important policy decisions you will face.

The Department supports research related to border security; chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense; cybersecurity; disaster resilience; and counterterrorism. Particularly concerning today is the threat of terrorist recruitment and self-radicalization through exposure to online propaganda from the likes of groups like ISIS. Social science research supported by DHS, including recent work published in the journal *Science*, can play an important role in characterizing the threat and devising effective countermeasures. Basing policy decisions on scientific evidence – rigorously obtained and thoroughly tested – is essential for assessing what works, what doesn't, and what options are most likely to achieve their desired outcomes.

The AAAS counts more than 100,000 members across every science and engineering discipline. We have a suite of programs focused on areas where science intersects society – from national security to education to diplomacy, and more. We publish high-quality research in our *Science* family of journals. The U.S. scientific community and the AAAS, in particular, are American assets at your disposal.

We look forward to working with you and your team at the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that you are able to draw on high quality scientific evidence to craft policies that best serve the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rush Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rush D. Holt
Chief Executive Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Executive Publisher, *Science* Family of Journals

American Association for the Advancement of Science
1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005 USA
Tel: 202 326 6600 Fax: 202 289 4950
www.aaas.org