

January 24, 2020

The Honorable Kelvin Droegemeier
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Dr. Droegemeier,

I write on behalf of the Association for Psychological Science (hereafter APS), representing its 30,000 members, to object to the proposed executive order that would immediately eliminate the 12-month embargo for published federally-funded scientific work. APS was one of 135 scientific publishers and organizations that signed a letter of protest to President Trump, dated December 18, 2019, and led by the Association of American Publishers.

APS affirms that an immediate move to total open access, in the absence of extensive consultation with stakeholders, would be harmful to the scientific enterprise. Scientific societies, academic institutions, funders, and individual scientists should collaboratively discuss models for publishing that will achieve complete openness in scientific research without also causing harm. Nonetheless, several key points in the letter we signed are at odds with APS's core values and those of our members in the US and across the world. Specifically, APS rejects any suggestion that our members' scientific work is the intellectual property of publishers, a commodity to be sold throughout the world to benefit American industry. Moreover, open access is not a threat to scientific endeavors and therefore should not be portrayed as such. To use the words of APS Fellow George Miller,^{*} we strongly reaffirm our fundamental commitment to give psychological science away. Accordingly, APS regrets signing this letter.

APS currently allows authors to publicly post the accepted version of their papers on non-commercial repositories without an embargo period. We have begun the planning process to transition to a future where all scholarly articles will be peer reviewed and made available upon publication at no cost.

Respectfully,



Lisa Feldman Barrett, Ph.D. (on behalf of the APS Board of Directors)
University Distinguished Professor, Northeastern University
President, APS

^{*} Miller, G. A. (1969). Psychology as a means of promoting human welfare. *American Psychologist*, 24(12), 1063–1075.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/h0028988>