



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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January 21, 2020

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan's Nomination to lead the National Science Foundation

Dear Senators Alexander and Murray:

On behalf of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), we want to convey our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan to become the next Director of the National Science Foundation. Dr. Panchanathan is exceptionally well-qualified to lead NSF, having led Arizona State University's efforts in the advancement of research, innovation, entrepreneurship, corporate engagement, strategic partnerships, and international development. He is also a member of the National Science Board, which is one of the nation's most prestigious scientific appointments given its dual role as NSF's policy-making body *and* independent advisor to the President of the United States and Congress. His six years on the Board have afforded him an opportunity to play an important role in strategic, policy, and fiduciary oversight for NSF.

Perhaps most important to the social and behavioral science research community—and of utmost consequence to the nation—is Dr. Panchanathan's longstanding professional and intellectual commitment to keeping *people* in the scientific equation by finding innovative ways to solve grand challenges that have meaningful, significant societal impact. Throughout his long career in Computer Science and Engineering at Arizona State University (which one of us [Liebow] proudly claims as his alma mater), Dr. Panchanathan has been committed to user-inspired basic research, to the design of assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, and to university outreach for advancements in STEM education and science literacy.

Dr. Panchanathan has a strong and clear vision on the role of research and innovation in ensuring our nation's leadership in the global economy, and we are pleased to lend our collective voices in support of his nomination.

We look forward to working with Dr. Panchanathan in this new capacity and thank you for your consideration and speedy confirmation of his nomination.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the information above with any questions.

Sincerely,



Edward Liebow
Chair, COSSA Board of Directors



Wendy A. Naus
COSSA Executive Director

Cc: Senator Kyrsten Sinema
Senator Martha McSally