



SBE Talking Points [Draft]

- Within hours of the President's budget request release, the National Science Foundation (NSF) reportedly took steps to begin to dismantle the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE).
- However, SBE was established through a deliberative process informed by Congressional guidance and stakeholder input, supported in statute and in service to numerous Congressional priorities ([Statutes](#), [Report Language](#))
- These reported changes are being made
 - In direct contradiction to Congressional guidance,
 - At a time when the agency has no Senate confirmed director, and
 - Without a transparent or meaningful process or justification.
- Concerns about NSF action expands well beyond the behavioral and brain science community. We have seen this administration disrupt and destroy pieces of the federal scientific infrastructure only to draw lawsuits and rehire staff after significantly diminishing agencies' abilities to serve their missions.
- SBE is a small but mighty engine for numerous scientific disciplines and has led to significant advances benefiting society including emerging technology, improving health, and national security. (See 2017 NASEM report: [The Value of Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences to National Priorities](#))
- SBE-funded research lays the groundwork for mission-driven federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Office of Naval Research. Dismantling SBE would undermine the foundational research and knowledge base that fuels innovation across the government.
- **Insert your personal talking point here.** (See FABBS Resource: [Talking points prompts for communicating with elected officials](#))
- We hope that you will provide critical congressional oversight to NSF and demand that the agency honor a transparent and informed process when making consequential changes. NSF has evolved over time and has made our country the international leader in innovation and discovery. As a taxpayer, I deserve clarification and certainty that my money is being spent intentionally, with reliable information, and through a transparent process.