



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE ADVOCACY DAY FY 2017 TALKING POINTS

INTRODUCTIONS:

- Thank you for meeting with us. **[INTRODUCE THE GROUP AND BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR WORK.]** We are members of the Consortium of Social Science Associations, which works to advance federal support for social and behavioral science research.
- We would like to talk with you about the importance of social and behavioral science research, particularly in our state.

WHY SOCIAL SCIENCE FUNDING IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST:

- As you may know, social and behavioral science research is supported across the federal government, including at the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture, federal statistical agencies, and many other departments and agencies. This support helps us as a nation better address complex, human-centered questions, such as:
 - How to convince a community in the path of a tornado to seek cover; or
 - Ways to slow the HIV/AIDS epidemic; or
 - How to thwart cybercrime and protect Americans' privacy and security in an increasingly connected world.
- Most people don't realize that we all rely on social and behavioral science in our everyday lives. For example, findings from social science research funded by the federal government:
 - Increase the efficiency of our industries;
 - Improve the quality of K-12 education;
 - Help us understand crime patterns and evaluate prevention strategies;
 - Help manage our natural resources;
 - Keep our troops safe; and
 - Help us to be informed as consumers.
- **[IF YOU ARE A RESEARCHER OR A UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATOR:** Provide more specifics on your work or research conducted at your institution. If you can, try to explain how it contributes to our national interest.]

[OR]

[IF YOU ARE FROM AN ASSOCIATION OR SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY: Highlight some of the advancements within your discipline or field. If you can, try to explain how it contributes to our national interest.]

- I would also draw your attention to the contributions federal support for social and behavioral science make to our local economy. **Included in your folder is a fact sheet detailing the amount and top recipients of federal social science dollars in our state.**

OUR ASK:

- I know budgets will be extremely tight next year, but I think we all agree that scientific research is a major driver of future economic growth. **We are asking for your office’s strong support for federal agencies that fund social and behavioral science research in FY 2017.** More information on these agencies and how they benefit our national interest can be found in your packet. I hope you will consider including these recommendations among your FY 2017 requests.
- *[Ask the Member or staff person if there are any policy or local issues for which it would be helpful to receive findings from the social and behavioral sciences and offer to follow up with details.]*
- Thank you very much for taking the time to speak with us. I hope you will use us and COSSA as resources in the future.

FOR REFERENCE: Summary of COSSA’s FY 2017 Appropriations Requests

*COSSA’s “asks” for social and behavioral science funding fall within three different appropriations bills, listed below. Should you wish to talk about one or more of the agencies in detail—or if you get questions about a specific agency—refer to the **three one-pagers in your blue folder**, which correspond to the “asks” below and include examples of social and behavioral science research.*

(1) Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill (aka: “CJS bill”)

- National Science Foundation: **\$8 billion** (+6.7%)
- National Institute of Justice: **\$48 million** (+33.3%)
- Bureau of Justice Statistics: **\$58 million** (+41.5%)
- Census Bureau: **\$1.6 billion** (+19.2%)

(2) Labor, Health & Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill (aka: “Labor-HHS bill”)

- National Institutes of Health: **\$34.6 billion** (+7.4%)
- Institute of Education Sciences: **\$728 million** (+17.8%)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: **\$364 million** (+8.9%)
- International Education & Foreign Language Studies: **\$78.7 million** (+9%)

(3) Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration, & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill (aka: “Ag bill”)

- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: **\$700 million** (+100%)
- National Agricultural and Statistics Service: **\$176.6 million** (+4.9%)
- Economic Research Service: **\$91.3 million** (+6.9%)