

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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TO: COSSA Members, Affiliates, Contributors, and Friends

FROM: Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director

COSSA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 30, 1982

This issue of the COSSA Legislative Report contains a request for letters to Congressmen and Senators on the issue of social science research funding at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). We are asking that copies of all letters be sent to Dr. Herbert Pardes, Director of NIMH, and that blind copies be sent to the COSSA office. Additional details below.

COSSA is currently planning two Congressional seminars. The first to be held in May, is being planned with the cooperation of the American Sociological Association's Medical Sociology Section on the topic "Health and Human Behavior." The second will be called "The Economic Crisis and the U.S. Statistical System" and will be co-sponsored by COSSA and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS).

We are pleased to announce that there are two new affiliates of the Consortium of Social Science Associations: the Evaluation Research Society and the Eastern Sociological Society. This brings the total number of COSSA affiliates and contributors to eleven and includes the following:

American Association of Public Opinion Researchers
American Educational Research Association
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
History of Science Society
Law and Society Association
Social Science History Association
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Psychological Anthropology
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

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National Science Foundation

On Tuesday, March 23, the House Science and Technology Committee rejected by 25-15 a minority proposal for the NSF authorization. The minority proposal would have kept NSF's Directorate for the Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences at the level requested by the administration and would have capped the research directorates at a level below that which the administration proposed.

Congressman Doug Walgren (D-PA) refused to compromise on the authorization approved by his Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Technology. The Subcommittee authorization, as reported earlier in the COSSA Legislative Report, restored funding for the social and behavioral science programs at NSF to their FY 1980 levels. Mr. Walgren was supported in his resolve not to compromise on the authorization by two Republicans on the Science and Technology Committee, Representative Claudine Schneider (R-RI) and Representative James Dunn (R-MI), who voted against the minority proposal. The authorization is scheduled to be reported out of committee on Thursday, April 1. It is expected that a floor vote on the authorization will then be scheduled as soon as possible.

In this authorization, Mr. Walgren and the Science and Technology Committee take a strong stand on the need to restore funding to the social and behavioral sciences at NSF. There may well be a floor battle on this subject when the authorization goes to the full House for approval. Help will be needed at that time from social and behavioral scientists to show Congressmen how important these restorations are. In the meantime, Mr. Walgren and Congressman Don Fuqua (D-FL), Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee, deserve our thanks. Write to them at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20515. In addition, social scientists in the districts of Mrs. Schneider and Mr. Dunn should write to them, thanking them for taking a stand in favor of the Subcommittee-approved authorization for NSF.

Senator Harrison Schmitt's Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space of the Senate Commerce Committee held hearings on NSF on Thursday, March 25. Testifying for NSF were Dr. Lewis Branscomb, Chairman, National Science Board; Dr. John Slaughter, Director, National Science Foundation; and Dr. Donald N. Langenberg, Deputy Director, National Science Foundation. Hearings for outside witnesses will be held on Wednesday, April 21. COSSA has requested permission to testify. The Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources under the chairmanship of Senator Orrin Hatch will hold hearings on NSF on April 15. The Hatch Committee and the Schmitt Subcommittee are still engaged in a jurisdictional dispute over authority in NSF authorizations.

National Institute of Mental Health

With hearings on NIMH before Congressman William Natcher's (D-KY) Appropriations Subcommittee on April 1, and before Senator Harrison Schmitt's (R-NM) Appropriations Subcommittee next month, social and behavioral scientists have an opportunity to counter developments at NIMH. COSSA is working to have language included in both House and Senate Appropriations Committee reports which will direct the agency to end its unfair treatment of social and behavioral sciences. We will ask that if social science research proposals are to be screened at NIMH for "mission relevance" (that is, for their direct applicability to mental illness), then all proposals, including those in the neurosciences, should be screened for mission relevance. In addition, we are asking that research in the social sciences receive a proportional increase in funding equal to the proportional increase in the budget of the agency as a whole.

Strong grass roots pressure is necessary to convince members of the two subcommittees that there are political costs involved in neglecting the interests of social and behavioral scientists when marking up the NIMH budget. If you (or your friends and colleagues) live in the state or district of members of either of the two subcommittees, please write your Congressman on this issue. A list of colleges and universities in the districts of the members of the Natcher Subcommittee is enclosed. A list of members of the Schmitt Subcommittee is also enclosed.

The message that should be conveyed is as follows:

1. NIMH screening of social and behavioral science research proposals for mission relevance place these proposals under an inequitable burden in comparison with other research fields. If good research management requires screening for mission relevance, then all proposals submitted to NIMH, regardless of disciplines, should be submitted to such a screening.

2. Funding for social science research should receive an increase in funding proportional to the total increase in funding for NIMH.

A copy of each letter sent to a Congressman should be sent to the director of NIMH:

Dr. Herbert Pardes
National Institute of Mental Health
Room 17-99
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

To aid COSSA in gauging the strength of constituency pressure, please send blind copies of your letters to the COSSA office.

Continuing Resolution

The Chairman and the ranking Republican of the House Appropriations Committee introduced legislation (H.J. Res. 409) to extend the Continuing Resolution for FY 1982, which expires on March 31, 1982, through the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 1982). This legislation applies to three appropriations: Commerce, Justice, and State; Labor, HHS, and Education; and Treasury and Postal Service. Of particular interest to social scientists are the budgets for NIMH, NIE, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Census Bureau, which all fall under the Continuing Resolution. The proposed extension of the Continuing Resolution was passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 299-103 on Wednesday, March 24. It is expected to go to the Senate floor on Monday or Tuesday, March 29 or 30. Passage of this legislation by both houses would permit Congress to turn its attention fully to FY 1983 budgets.

House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies

2358 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202/225-3508

Majority Members

William H. Natcher, D-KY, 2nd District
Brescia College
Kentucky Wesleyan College
Saint Catharine College
Elizabethtown Community College
Western Kentucky University
University of Kentucky - nearby

Neal Smith, D-IO, 4th District
Central University of Iowa
Des Moines Area Community College
Drake University
Grand View College
Indian Hills Community College
Vennard College
William Penn College
University of Iowa - nearby

David R. Obey, D-WI, 7th District
Mount Senario College
Northland College
University of Wisconsin

Edward R. Roybal, D-CA, 25th District
California State University
East Los Angeles College
Occidental College
Woodbury University
University of So. California - nearby

Louis Stokes, D-OH, 21st District
Case Western Reserve University
Cuyahoga Community College
Notre Dame University - nearby

Joseph Early, D-MA, 3rd District
Clark University
College of the Holy Cross
Worcester State College
University of Massachusetts - nearby

Bernard Dwyer, D-NJ, 15th District
Middlesex County College
Rutgers State University

Minority Members

Silvio O. Conte, R-MA, 1st District

Amherst College
Hampshire College
North Adams State College
Mount Holyoke College
Westfield State College
University of Massachusetts
Smith College
Williams College

George M. O'Brien, R-IL, 17th District

College of Saint Francis
Governors State University
Lewis University
Prairie State College

Carl D. Pursell, R-MI, 2nd District

Cleary College
Concordia College
Eastern Michigan Universtiy
Madonna College
Schoolcraft College
University of Michigan

Robert L. Livingston, R-LA, 1st District

Dillard University
University of New Orleans
Loyola University - nearby
Southern University
Tulane University - nearby
Xavier University - nearby

John Edward Porter, R-IL, 10th District

De Lourdes College
Kendall College
Mallinckrodt College
National College Education
Northwestern University

Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Services

1108 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone 202/224-7290

Majority Members

Harrison (Jack) Schmitt (R-NM)
Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR)
Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. (R-CN)
Ted Stevens (R-AS)
Mark Andrews (R-ND)
James Abdnor (R-SD)
Warren B. Rudman (R-NH)
Arlen Specter (R-PA)

Minority Members

William Proxmire (D-WI)
Robert C. Byrd (IND-VA)
Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC)
Thomas F. Eagleton (D-MO)
Lawton Chiles (D-FL)
Quentin N. Burdick (D-ND)
Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI)

