

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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HOUSE MOVES APPROPRIATIONS BILLS: APPROVES RESEARCH FUNDING LEVELS *HS*

The thirteen appropriations bills that ~~which~~ provide funding for programs of the federal government have moved through the Congress this year with remarkable speed. The House of Representatives has passed 12 of the 13 by the June 30 deadline of the revised budget act (transportation is the lone bill that missed the deadline.) The Senate has passed none, but is poised to move quickly when Congress returns on July 9 from its current recess.

There seem to be two factors accounting for the relative briskness of the legislative pace this year. First, last year's budget enforcement act limits the capacity of Congress to tinker too much with discretionary spending and thus has hindered those who would like to increase funds for domestic programs. Second, since the White House has adopted a veto strategy, many of the battles which in the past led to delays on certain bills, usually concerning abortion provisions, have not occurred. Opponents of provisions loosening abortion restrictions included in the D.C. and Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bills have decided to rely on sustaining the presidential veto with one-third plus one of the votes, rather than directly challenging these provisions by building a majority vote to overturn them.

What follows is a description of actions taken by the House of Representatives on programs that affect social and behavioral science research. Funding for the National Science Foundation has already been covered (see UPDATE June 10, 1991).

NIH AND ADAMHA: RESEARCH ON WOMEN AND THE BRAIN WIN OUT *JA*

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH): \$8.825 billion, including AIDS, an increase of \$50 million above the request and \$548 million over FY 1991 levels.

The House slightly surpassed the President's request and gave NIH a 6.6% increase. This will allow for 6,000 new research project grants (RPGs) in FY 1992--a goal of the NIH financial management plan mandated by the committee last year.

Top priority for NIH was given to women's health research, which received over one-third of all the increases provided in the bill. Not only did the House give \$25 million for NIH Director Bernadine Healy's newly proposed interdisciplinary clinical trial on women's health (which emphasizes research on cardiovascular disease, breast and uterine cancer, and osteoporosis), but it also gave \$12.5 million to the Office of Research on Women's Health--\$10 million above the President's request. Additional chunks of money went to the National Cancer Institute for research on breast and ovarian cancer (\$30 million), to other institutes for research on reproductive health, osteoporosis, and infertility (\$15 million), and to the new breast and cervical cancer screening program (\$50 million).

Other highlights included support for aging demographics research and new initiatives in minority health issues. Generally speaking, no specific amounts were allocated for particular programs or initiatives. Rather, the committee identified priority areas for each institute to develop or expand.

Although in its report, the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations committee avoided making any specific directives regarding indirect costs and downward negotiations, it noted the expectation that NIH will address these issues between now and the next appearance of Dr. Healy

INSIDE UPDATE...

- More Appropriations News
- Ravitch Named to Head OERI
- Social Scientists Give Budget Advice
- Miller Begins Sabbatical from NSF
- Sources of Research Support: National Science Foundation

before the appropriations subcommittee during its FY 1993 funding deliberations.

National Institute on Aging (NIA): \$362.5 million, an increase of \$13.9 million over the request and \$38.8 million over FY 1991 levels.

NIA received a 12 percent increase over FY 1991 levels. New funds were targeted to four areas in particular: Alzheimer's Disease (AD), frailty, minority initiatives, and aging demographics. New AD money is intended to expand research on the causes, treatments, family burden of care, and selective risk factors--including cross-cultural studies--associated with the disorder. With regard to frailty, the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers are directed to continue supporting research into the "basic biological, behavioral, and social risk factors that compromise independent functioning in older Americans."

The committee noted new initiatives underway at NIA to focus on minority aging issues, and directed the institute to provide support for studies examining "specific conditions and disease processes, healthy aging, family life, work, and retirement income patterns, and other aspects relevant to older minority populations." The committee also urged NIA to provide new resources and support for research on aging demographics, the oldest old, health and retirement, and aging-related statistics.

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development: \$524.6 million, an increase of \$4.1 million over the request and \$45.7 million over FY 1991 levels.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community. Update is published fortnightly. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$50; institutional subscriptions, \$100, overseas mail, \$100. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525, Fax: (202) 842-2788

NICHHD received a 9.5 percent increase, which is intended to support programs in infant mortality, childhood injury, sudden infant death syndrome, and other programs already underway at the institute. NICHHD also was directed to develop new programs in infertility research and obstetrics and gynecology.

The committee gave particular attention to normative developmental research on ethnic minorities, and urged the demographic and behavioral science branch at NICHHD to support such an agenda through the Request for Applications (RFA) mechanism.

In an unfortunate turn, the committee eliminated the \$3 million request for funding the feasibility phase of the Survey of Health and AIDS Risk Prevalence (SHARP), but did so without any explanatory language.

ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE, AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (ADAMHA): ~~JA~~ \$2.918 billion (including AIDS) for research and other activities, a decrease of \$130 million below the request and a decrease of \$10 million below FY 1991 levels.

The language of the committee's report reflects further erosion of support for social and behavioral research at ADAMHA. Although "behavioral" research is frequently referenced, research priorities identified by the committee rarely include social and behavioral perspectives other than neuroscience. For all three ADAMHA institutes, increasing attention is being focused on understanding the neurologic dimensions of mental illness and substance abuse and to developing new medications to treat them.

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH): \$520.02 million for research, \$774,000 below the request and \$36.2 million above FY 1991.

Referencing the President's proclamation of the 1990s as "The Decade of the Brain," the committee made special note of the potential of neuroscience research to address mental health problems and urged continued support for it at NIMH.

The committee also encouraged NIMH to pursue research on mental disorders in rural settings and on the severely mentally ill.

Rejecting the President's proposal to consolidate ADAMHA's homeless demonstration projects, the committee instead allocated \$5.8

million for NIMH's mental health services demonstrations (the same amount as FY 1991).

National Institute on Drug Abuse: \$277.28 million for research, \$14.8 million below the request and \$12.1 million above FY 1991.

The committee justified its rather modest \$12.1 million increase in NIDA's research budget as "appropriate" given that the institute has been the recipient of very large increases over the past few years.

The report identified priority areas in drug abuse research as "the neurobiology of addictive disorders, genetic and environmental vulnerabilities, prevention, children and adolescents, medications development, improving treatment efficacy, epidemiology, HIV infection, and other medical consequences of drug use."

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: \$154.05 million, \$130,000 above the request, and \$11 million over FY 1991.

As usual, NIAAA did not receive a significant boost, coming very close instead to the amount requested by the President. As drug abuse still is perceived to be a more pressing substance abuse problem than alcohol abuse, NIAAA continues to be under-funded relative to NIDA. The committee offered no specific language about research advances and priorities at NIAAA.

NEW EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ADDED TO OERI; RESEARCH, STATISTICS AND ASSESSMENT RECEIVE INCREASES *MS*

The Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) continued to expand, even as its new leader was nominated by President Bush for confirmation by the Senate (see separate box) The House recommended an \$8 million program, to be awarded on a competitive basis, for a model demonstration project "to demonstrate the effective use of state-of-the-art communications technology in schools." This would include the installation of fiber-optic wiring systems throughout a local school district. It also recommended the establishment of an Office of Educational Technology within the Department of Education.

The appropriations for research programs at OERI (including the technology initiative) increases to \$79 million, \$14.3 over FY 1991 levels.

However, Field Initiated Studies continues to take a back seat to the research centers and laboratories and was allotted only \$976,000, the same amount as in FY 1991.

The National Center for Education Statistics was allocated \$50 million, \$5.7 million over last year (exclusive of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)). Assessment is a cornerstone of the President's education reform package and NAEP received a \$8.8 million increase to \$28 million for FY 1992. The House also restored funding for Library Programs the administration sought to eliminate.

The Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education (FIPSE) received \$15 million from the House, \$361,000 above last year.

RAVITCH NAMED TO HEAD OERI *AS*

After months of rumors, Diane Ravitch, Adjunct Professor of History and Education at Teacher College, Columbia University, has been nominated by President Bush to head the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) at the Department of Education. Ravitch replaces Christopher Cross as Assistant Secretary for the office responsible for research, statistics, and assessment in the administration's efforts to transform America's schools.

Ravitch has written extensively about the history, curricula, and current problems of America's schools. She is the author of The Schools We Deserve: Reflections on the Educational Crises of Our Times, and co-author, with former OERI Assistant Secretary Chester Finn, of What Do Our 17 Year Olds Know? A Report on the First National Assessment of History and Literature. Ravitch also is the principal co-writer of the California K-12 History-Social Science Curriculum.

She is a member of the American Historical Association and the American Educational Research Association. A graduate of Wellesley College, Ravitch earned a Ph.D. from Columbia in the History of American Education.

HOUSE REJECTS CONSOLIDATION OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS, ELIMINATION OF LAW RELATED PROGRAMS *HS*

President Bush's proposal for funding of programs to support graduate study called for the consolidation of a number of categorical fellowships into one National Graduate Fellowship Program with the Secretary of Education given discretionary power to declare where the money should be spent. The administration proposal also sought to eliminate the Law School Clinical Program and the Legal Training for the Disadvantaged Program. COSSA, along with other groups, opposed these proposals.

The House rejected the consolidation proposal. It continued to fund the myriad of programs which support graduate students. The **Javits Fellowships** provide support for those students in the social sciences, arts and humanities. It received \$8 million for FY 1992, \$193,000 above FY 1991. **Harris Graduate Fellowships** received \$17.6 million for institutions of higher education to assist persons from underrepresented minority groups attend graduate school. The **Harris Public Service Fellowships** which help students pursue public service careers received \$3.2 million. For both Harris programs the increases were slight.

The **Law School Clinical Program** not only was not eliminated but it was appropriated \$8 million, a \$2.1 million increase over FY 1991. **Legal Training for the Disadvantaged** received \$3 million from the House, up by \$72,000 from last year.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS' FUNDING CONTINUES TO CLIMB *HS*

The House allocated a total of \$53 million to international education and foreign language programs, an increase of \$7 million over last year. Of the total, \$34 million goes to domestic programs such as the Title VI Centers and the International Business Education centers; \$13 million goes to foreign language and area studies fellowships; and \$6 million goes to the overseas programs known as Fulbright-Hays.

The House provided \$8.4 million, the same as last year, for the **United States Institute of Peace**.

BLS RECEIVES LARGE INCREASE TO HELP FUND ECONOMIC STATISTICS INITIATIVE *HS*

Another agency key to the president's economic statistics improvement initiative, the **Bureau of Labor Statistics**, received \$258.5 million for FY 1992, a \$54.8 million increase over FY 1991. The Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. William Natcher (D-KY), noted that "serious gaps exist in program coverage and methodology" in the U.S. statistical system. The House, therefore, provided up to \$16.1 million to help BLS "improve Federal economic indicators." Although approving the other increases requested for implementing the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act and continued redesign of the Current Population Survey, the House rejected the elimination of the Mass Layoffs statistical program and directed BLS to spend \$5.9 million on its continuation.

Research and evaluation at the **Employment and Training Administration** continued its decline to \$10 million, the requested level. This program has lost \$2.9 million from its FY 1991 funding and \$5.7 million from its FY 1990 level. The House also reduced by \$3 million the request of the **Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy** to \$2.1 million. The Committee made explicit that: "Research must assume a lower priority in time of fiscal constraint."

AGRICULTURE BILL FUNDS MARKETS, TRADE AND POLICY RESEARCH *HS*

The House has provided \$4 million for research on markets, trade and policy (MTP) as part of the \$99 million allocated for the competitive grants program of the **Cooperative State Research Service** at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

For many years, COSSA and other groups have strongly advocated for increased attention to social science research in rural America through testimony to Congress, meetings with congressional and agency staff, and organized constituency pressure (see UPDATE May 28, 1991.)

When the National Research Initiative was announced, the social science agenda was included in the MTP part of the initiative. Last year, the Congress refused to fund MTP. This year the President's budget included a \$2 million request. The House Agriculture and Rural Development Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Jamie Whitten (D-MS), provided twice the

requested amount and the full House ratified that action.

In other funding decisions for USDA, the House allocated \$168.8 million under the Hatch Act, an increase of \$6.5 million over FY 1991 funding. Special research grants received \$58.3 million, a decrease of \$3.7 million below FY 1991. The Rural Policy Institutes included in the FY 1991 bill were not funded by the House. The 14 percent cap on indirect costs for competitive grants remains.

The **Economic Research Service** received \$59.1 million, an increase of \$4.7 million over FY 1991. Part of the increase will fund research in the economics of global change.

CENSUS BUREAU AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS RECEIVE LESS THAN INFLATION INCREASES: NAS STUDY OF DECENNIAL CENSUS ORDERED HS

The **Census Bureau** received \$123 million for FY 1992 from the House for its current statistical programs. This is \$12.8 million more than its FY 1991 funding, but is less than requested by the President and less than the increase for inflation (known in budget parlance as "current services").

The Bureau was directed to spend \$1.4 million for "a comprehensive and independent study of the decennial census" to be conducted by the National Academy of Sciences. The report of the Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Neal Smith (D-IA), notes: "Given, however, the serious questions raised about the accuracy, complexity and cost of the 1990 census, as well as concern about the appropriateness of collecting such a wide range of data in the census, it is necessary that a fundamental, independent review of the purposes, current collection techniques, and possible alternatives for the next decennial census, and beyond, be conducted." In almost a full page of specific directives the Committee makes clear it has serious doubts about conducting another census in the same manner that the 1990 census was carried out. Completion of the study is expected sometimes in 1993.

The **Economic and Statistical Analyses** programs of the Commerce Department received \$38.9 million for FY 1992, a \$1.7 million increase over FY 1991, but again below "current services." How this will affect the government-wide economic statistics initiative remains to be seen, but the significant

increases requested by the President were not granted.

USIA RECEIVES INFLATION INCREASE FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS: SOVIET-EAST EUROPEAN RESEARCH GETS DOUBLE DIP AGAIN HS

The **Educational and Cultural Exchange** programs of the **United States Information Agency** received \$178 million, a \$14.8 million increase over FY 1991. The Committee reiterated its belief that some of the traditional programs should be reduced and replaced with new programs which "will help the countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in adopting and implementing democratic processes of government and establish private businesses, including both family farming and other enterprises."

The **Soviet-East European Research and Training** program received \$4.8 million from the appropriation for the State Department. It also received \$5 million from the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. David Obey (D-WI). This double dose of funding leaves the program \$200,000 below its FY 1991 appropriation.

ALPHABET SOUP: BJS UP, NIJ DOWN, OJJDP SAVED AGAIN HS

The **Bureau of Justice Statistics** received \$22.7 million for FY 1992, an increase of just one-half million dollars above FY 1991 funding. The House provided \$450,000 to establish a statistical series on hospital emergency room visits associated with child abuse and other family violence. The **National Institute of Justice** was allocated \$23.6 million for FY 1992, a decrease of \$359,000 below FY 1991 funding.

The President's budget included a request of only \$7.5 million for the **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)** for FY 1992. As in previous years, the House rejected this attempt to decimate OJJDP and provided \$74.4 million for its programs. A total of \$3.2 million was appropriated for the Law Related Education program.

INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES: FELLOWSHIPS FOR HUMANITIES DISSERTATIONS *MM*

In the report accompanying the bill, the House cited the "need to increase support for prospective humanities doctorates" and provided \$1 million to create a dissertation fellowships support program at the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. It is estimated that this amount will enable NEH to assist 50 humanities doctoral candidates in finishing their degrees. The bill also provides for a \$1 million increase in funding for state humanities councils.

Overall funding for grants and administration at NEH was set at \$153.1 million, a \$9 million increase from the FY 1991 appropriation level.

Research funding at the **Smithsonian Institution** was decreased by \$865,000. The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory saw a reduction of \$350,000, and \$200,000 was reduced from the request for major instrumentation for international environmental science. The remaining reductions come from lapse rates of new positions.

For the **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**, \$5.8 million was allocated, a \$772,000 increase from FY 1991.

PANETTA TURNS TO SOCIAL SCIENTISTS FOR LONG-TERM BUDGET ADVICE *MB*

Stating a need "to control the budget before the budget controls us," House Budget Committee chairman Leon Panetta (D-CA) convened a special hearing entitled "Choosing our Future: Tomorrow's Society Budget Demands and Policy Choices Today." Panetta invited three noted social scientists to Capitol Hill on June 12 to share their thoughts on how societal trends will affect future federal budgets.

Dr. Martha Farnsworth Riche, Director of Policy Studies at the Population Reference Bureau, told Panetta's panel, "our present federal spending structure [is] inappropriate for our current and especially future population." She cited three demographic trends -- longer lives, fewer children, and the aging of the baby boom -- resulting in a decreasing workforce supporting the health and retirement costs of a growing number of older Americans.

Dr. Henry Aaron of the Brookings Institution addressed the budgetary implications of skyrocketing health care costs. He outlined three major points: a reduced rate of growth in federal health care spending will result in denial of care to some Americans, in the absence of major reforms, the federal share of health care costs will continue to grow, and such reforms will necessitate increased public spending on health care. Aaron cited the accelerated growth of medical technology as a leading cause of rising health care costs, and also urged the federal government to work with the private sector in restructuring the health care financing system.

Dr. Jessica T. Mathews, Vice President of the World Resources Institute, told the handful of committee members present, "We are just beginning to be able to see the enormous impact we are having on this planet." She cited the trends of rapid global population growth and increased energy consumption as having irreversible effects on society. Mathews advocated using the federal budget to offset these demands, for example increasing gasoline taxes to reduce consumption or by eliminating subsidies for below-cost timber sales.

The three witnesses all cited the need for political courage and long-range planning on the part of Congress and the administration in addressing future societal needs.

MILLER BEGINS SABBATICAL; BAERWALD ACTING DIVISION DIRECTOR AT NSF *HS*

Roberta Balstad Miller, Director of the Social and Economic Science Division at the National Science Foundation, began her postponed sabbatical on July 1. Miller will spend two months conducting research in South Africa. The former Executive Director of COSSA, Miller will then become a Senior Associate Member of St. Anthony's College, Oxford in England through June 1992.

During her absence, Tom Baerwald, current director of the Geography program at NSF, will serve as acting division director.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: National Science Foundation

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

Division of Social and Economic Science

The Division of Social and Economic Science at the National Science Foundation (NSF) conducts a special competition for research proposals dealing with the Human Dimensions of Global Change. The Human Dimensions of Global Change competition was established in FY 1989 to encourage social science research on the myriad ways that human systems affect and respond to global change. Proposals for this competition should be clearly related to social, economic, demographic, governmental, legal, and/or institutional aspects of global change.

Application Procedure: Proposals to be supported through this competition must meet the same standards as other proposals supported by the Division of Social and Economic Science.

Proposals responding to this competition should be submitted to the most relevant program in the Division of Social and Economic Science or to an appropriate program in another division in accordance with the guidelines in **Grants for Research and Education in Science and Engineering (NSF 90-77)**.

Budget: During FY 1991, \$2.4 million is budgeted for this competition. The budget request for FY 1992 is \$3.4 million.

Review Process: Evaluation of proposals appropriate for this competition will include reviews by external experts and by a multi-disciplinary advisory panel.

Deadlines: Proposals for this initiative must be received at NSF January 15 or August 15 for consideration in the evaluation cycles that immediately follow those dates. Funding decisions will be announced approximately six months after those deadlines.

Contact: For information about the Human Dimensions of Global Change competition, contact a program officer in one of the following programs in the Division of Social and Economic Science:

Decision, Risk, and Management Science	(202) 357-7417
Economics	(202) 357-9674
Geography and Regional Science	(202) 357-7326
Law and Social Science	(202) 357-9657
Political Science	(202) 357-9406
Sociology	(202) 357-7802

The mailing address is as follows:

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