

Consortium of Social Science Associations

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HOUSE PASSES NSF AUTHORIZATION BILL

On July 14, the House of Representatives passed the National Science Foundation (NSF) authorization bill, clearing it for the President's approval. The House had originally approved its version of the bill on April 24, 1997. However, the Senate did not enact its version until May 12, 1998 (see *UPDATE*, May 18). With prior staff discussions paving the way, the House this time simply accepted the Senate bill, substituted it for the previously passed legislation, and by voice vote sent the new bill to the President. NSF is reauthorized for the first time since 1998 and the authorization lasts until FY 2000.

The debate on the House floor consisted mostly of bipartisan praise for the NSF. House Science Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) noted: "It is the kinds of research that the NSF funds through which we will make the fundamental discoveries which will become the economic drivers of the 21st Century." Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) said that NSF's activities "underpin the technological strength of the nation." Rep. George Brown (D-CA), Ranking Democrat on the Science Committee, offered a tribute to outgoing NSF director, Neal Lane. Other members singing NSF's praises included: Reps. Chip Pickering (R-MS), Acting Chair of the Basic Research Subcommittee, and David Price (D-NC), Deborah Stabenow (D-MI), and Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX).

The only discordant note was struck by Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) who spoke not against the reauthorization, but who wanted to put the House on notice that he would offer an amendment to the appropriations bill to "tighten the pencil a little bit." Citing a number of, what he considered, frivolous grants NSF has awarded, Sanford wanted to "watch out for the taxpayer" in federal spending.

The legislation authorizes \$3.773 billion for FY 1999, which is the President's requested level. For FY 2000, the authorization rises to \$3.886 billion, an increase of 3 percent. The Research and Related

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July 27, 1998

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSES LABOR-HHS-ED FUNDING BILL

On July 14, the House Appropriations Committee approved its FY 1999 appropriations bill (H.R. 4274) for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies. The Senate is not expected to begin consideration of its version of the legislation until September.

National Institutes of Health

Continuing to view the National Institutes of Health (NIH) "as one of its highest priorities" the Committee emphasizes in the House report accompanying the bill that it "has made difficult resource allocation decisions throughout the bill to provide what it believes is the necessary funding level for NIH." Accordingly, the Committee provides \$14.86 billion for the 23 appropriations that when combined fund the programs of NIH. This represents an increase of \$1.23 billion or 9.1 percent above the agency's funding level for FY 1998, and \$98.7 million above the amount requested by the President.

The Committee charges NIH to "distribute funding on the basis of scientific opportunity." So that NIH has maximum flexibility, the Committee has "attempted to minimize the amount of direction provided in the report. . . There are no directives to fund particular research mechanisms, such as centers or requests for applications, or specific amounts of funding for particular diseases."

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The Committee report commends the **Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research** (OBSSR) "for its diligent efforts to promote the philosophy at NIH that behavior, social, and environmental factors as well as genetic and physiological factors all interact to determine the health outcomes and ultimately overall health status. The Committee believes that these interactions represent unprecedented scientific opportunities for the NIH, and as such, the Committee notes its appreciation of the OBSSR continuing efforts to facilitate interdisciplinary research collaborations. NIH is encouraged to expand its research in these areas."

Because African-Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans "continue to be under-represented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences," the report urges OBSSR to "enhance its activities related to behavioral and social science training opportunities." The report also commends OBSSR for its plans to "initiate, in collaboration with several institutes, a request for applications to stimulate investigations into socioeconomic influences on health."

The Committee provided \$728.81 million for the **National Institute of Child Health and Human Development** (NICHD), \$55.30 million above the FY 1998 level and \$2.5 million above the President's requested level. The Committee notes its support for the NICHD's behavioral research on child development and behavior, including new

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initiatives to identify how behavioral roots of chronic diseases are established and help to mediate critical behaviors that can lead to life threatening events such as automobile accidents, AIDS, and lung cancer.

Emphasizing its concern with the increasing number of acts of violence committed by children, the Committee encourages NICHD to work with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), CDC and the Department of Justice (DOJ) "to research the root causes of violent behavior on the part of children and how to prevent it."

The report applauds NICHD's "continued support of demographic research," further noting its endorsement of "NICHD's initiative to conduct demographic studies such as those of poor families and neighborhoods, adolescent health, welfare-to-work transitions, and child care." The Institute's fatherhood initiative is recognized for its contribution to filling "a serious gap in our understanding of family formation, family strengths, and the development and well-being of children."

The **National Institute on Aging** (NIA) received \$565.57 million in funding for FY 1999, \$47.26 million above the FY 1998 level and \$9.21 million above the President's request. The Committee applauds NIA for its "continued support for demographic research" and encourages it "to develop NIH-wide activities on population models of disease processes."

The Committee approved \$68.19 million in funding for the **National Institute of Nursing Research** (NINR), \$4.72 above the FY 1998 funding level and \$66,000 above the President's request.

The **National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism** (NIAAA) received \$248.77 million in funding from the House Committee, \$22.02 million above FY 1998 and \$3.78 million above the Administration's request. The Committee applauds NIAAA for "the recent findings that confirm that early initiation of drinking is a predictor of later alcohol problems."

The Committee provided the **National Institute on Drug Abuse** (NIDA) with a funding level of

\$575.42 million, \$49.23 million above the FY 1998 funding level and \$859,000 above the President's request. NIDA is urged to "continue research on preventing or diminishing the health and developmental consequences associated with drug abuse and addiction." The Committee also encourages NIDA "to support behavioral research on nicotine and smoking and epidemiological studies that monitor patterns of drug use, including nicotine."

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) received \$415.7 million in funding, \$66.86 million above the FY 1998 level and \$8.4 above the President's request. NIMH is urged to "investigate the behavioral, social and developmental factors that contribute to the onset of eating disorders." The Committee further encourages the Institute to "make hate crimes a research priority by investigating the behavioral, social, and cultural factors that contribute to hate crime perpetration; and the psychological consequences and characteristics of hate crime victimization." The Committee also urges NIMH to pay attention to "prevention, treatment, and intervention of violence against women, including behavioral and psychological factors."

While the Committee did not earmark a specific dollar amount for AIDS research, the Committee states that it "continues to support OAR [Office of AIDS Research], its leadership, and its coordinated budget planning process and expects the individual institutes, centers and divisions to fully cooperate with OAR's work." The Committee retains last year's language permitting "the Director of OAR, jointly with the Director of NIH, to transfer between [Institutes] up to three percent of the funding" determined by NIH to be AIDS related.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The House Committee provided \$2.6 billion for the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC), an increase of \$207.79 million above the FY 1998 funding level and \$94 million above the President's request.

For CDC prevention centers, the Committee recommended \$12 million, an increase of \$3.5 million above the FY 1998 level and \$3.9 million above the request. The CDC is encouraged to "continue the existing centers and to expand the

number of centers as resources permit." The Committee specifically encourages the establishment of a center "focusing on prevention marketing and behavior change strategies to enhance health in disadvantaged communities."

The sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) program received \$123.8, an \$11.6 million increase over the FY 1998 level and \$2.2 million above the President's request. The Committee recommended \$283.4 million for the chronic and environmental disease prevention, an increase of \$70.4 million over the FY 1998 level and \$18.8 million above the requested amount. This increase is for "several initiatives including those on cardiovascular disease, tobacco, health disparities, oral health, asthma, chronic fatigue syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome, pfiesteria, and arthritis."

The Committee provided \$64.4 million for the CDC's injury control program, \$14.63 million above the current year funding level and \$15.1 million above the President's request. The bill retains the FY 1998 Appropriations Act language, prohibiting the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control from "engaging in any activities to advocate or promote gun control... The Committee expects research on gun violence to be objective and grants to be awarded through an impartial peer review process."

The Committee also provided "substantial additional funds" for CDC youth violence prevention activities. The report commends the CDC for developing a "best practices" project "to disseminate information regarding effective violence prevention strategies, especially among minorities." CDC is urged to "coordinate its youth violence activities with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Department of Education" and encouraged to "consider hosting a conference including law enforcement, health, education agencies and professionals to consider youth violence research and evaluations." The Committee further recommends the initiation of a program on physical and emotional injuries associated with child maltreatment and neglect designed with the collaboration of national and academic organizations.

A total of \$84.6 million is recommended for the CDC's Center for Health Statistics, the same as the comparable FY 1998 amount and request.

The Committee provided \$10 million for the CDC's new prevention research program, a \$10 million increase over FY 1998, but \$15 million below the President's request. The Committee does not provide a separate line-item funding for the health disparities demonstration program, but provides level funding, \$30 million below the requested amount.

For crime bill activities, the Committee recommended \$51 million in funding, equal to the FY 1998 level, but \$62,000 above the President's request. The report urges the CDC to expand family violence intervention and prevention programs coordinated with substance abuse treatment centers serving female clients. The agency is further counseled to support violence intervention and prevention programs that are developed within the communities they are designed to serve.

Finally, the bill transfers the American Stop Smoking Intervention Study (ASSIST) from the National Cancer Institute to the CDC in FY 1999.

Agency for Health Policy and Research

The Agency for Health Policy and Research (AHCPR) received \$100.4 million, \$10.1 million above the FY 1998 level. The amount includes \$70.6 million for the one percent evaluation funding, \$14.4 million above FY 1998. Also included is \$27.8 million for Health Insurance and Expenditure Surveys, \$8.5 million below the FY 1998 level. The entire amount is "derived from one percent evaluation set-aside."

Noting that "little research has been done to identify the specific health care processes, practices, systems, and other factors that influence clinical decision making and that may contribute to missed diagnosis," the report urges AHCPR to support research that looks at missed diagnoses.

Child Abuse Research

The Committee encourages the NIH Child Abuse and Neglect Working Group to hold a

conference with other Federal agencies, and other experts "to assess the state-of-the-art science and make recommendations for a research agenda in this field."

Prevention Research

The Committee believes "that prevention is the key to maintaining and improving the health of the American People, and that to be most effective outreach and public education must start at the earliest level possible," and encourages the Departments of Health and Human Services, and Education to collaborate "to establish and fund a program of health promotion and disease prevention in our nation's schools."

Noting that NIH Director Harold Varmus has "identified prevention research as a primary focus of NIH in the coming year," the Committee states "that population-based prevention research that develops and tests community-based public health interventions should be included as part of this focus." Population-based research strategies would be targeted at precluding the development of disease or postponing its symptomatic onset through changes in personal habits and factors in the social and physical environment." The Committee report asks Varmus to be prepared to testify on this research at the FY 2000 appropriations hearing.

Institute of Medicine Report

The Committee report also comments on the recently released Institute of Medicine Report, *Improving Priority Setting and Public Input at the National Institutes of Health*, conducted "to examine how NIH decides what to fund, what mechanisms exist for public input into the process, and the role of Congress in directing the allocation of funding among research areas. . . The Committee urges the Director to begin the process of implementing those recommendations that do not take legislative action as soon as possible." (See UPDATE, July 13)

Ed Research Is Level-Funded

While the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention received large increases from the House

Appropriations Committee, research programs under the Department of Education were not as fortunate.

Program at the Office of Educational Research and Improvement received \$447.7 million, \$241.7 million below the President's request, but \$16.2 million above the current fiscal year's funding level. The recommended amount includes \$72.6 million for education research performed by the **Office of Education Research and Improvement (OERI)**, equal to its funding for FY1998 and the President's request. The Committee recommended \$56 million for the regional educational laboratories, equal to the last year's level and the President's request.

The Committee recommended \$68 million for the programs and activities of the **National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)**, equal to the President's request, but \$9 million above the FY 1998 level. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) received \$38.4 million from the Committee, \$5.8 million above last year, but \$6,000 below the President's request.

The Committee also recommended \$90 million for the **Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE)**, \$15 million below the President's request and \$18.1 million below the FY 1998 funding level. The Committee recommend no funds for the NSF/ED interagency research initiative, \$50 million below the President's request.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT RENEWED: HOUSE-SENATE DIFFERENCES ON GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

With the passage on July 10 by the Senate of the Higher Education Act reauthorization the stage is now set for a House-Senate conference committee to reconcile the differences in the two bills and provide authorization for the federal government's support for higher education for the next five years. The House passed its version on May 6. For graduate education support the bills present different versions of how best to provide federal funds for post-baccalaureate work. For international education the differences are slight and probably easily reconciled. The House, but not the Senate, combined these two

areas of federal support into one title in the legislation.

The House bill consolidates all graduate student support in one program called Graduate Assistance in Areas on National Need (GAANN) that is authorized at \$40 million for FY 1999 and "such sums as necessary" in subsequent years. The program makes grants to academic departments and programs, who in turn, provide funds to graduate students. The Secretary is directed to consult "with appropriate Federal and nonprofit agencies and organizations" in designating the areas of study "with national need." Under present guidelines, no social or behavioral science has been designated an area of national need. Despite the reauthorization, the House appropriations committee did not provide any funds for GAANN in FY 1999.

Unlike the House, the Senate has continued, and in one case restored, a number of programs to meet the financial needs of graduate students. It too maintains the GAANN program, providing an authorization of \$30 million for FY 1999 and "such sums as necessary" for future years. It makes more explicit the consultation for designating the areas of national need, identifying the National Science Foundation and the National Academy of Sciences, as well as "other appropriate Federal and nonprofit agencies and organizations."

Senate Saves Javits, Restores CLEO

The Senate bill extends the life of the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship program which has been threatened with extinction by both the administration and the House during the past few years. The Senate has consistently provided appropriations to maintain the program which gives fellowships to students in the arts, humanities and social sciences "of exceptional achievement and financial need." The bill requires the Department of Education to make the fellowship applications available not later than October 1 and to notify the recipients not later than March 1. This should remedy complaints in recent years that the Department has not processed these applications in a timely manner. The Javits program is authorized at \$30 million for FY 1999 and "such sums as necessary" thereafter.

The Senate has also authorized a Thurgood Marshall Legal Opportunity Program designed to

provide low income minority or disadvantaged college students with the information, preparation, and financial assistance to gain access to and complete law school study. This program is essentially the restoration of the Legal Training for the Disadvantaged Program run by the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO), whose appropriation ended two years ago. The Senate authorized \$5 million for this new incarnation in FY 1999 and the four succeeding years. The bill also includes an authorization of \$30 million to renew the Faculty Development Fellowships so that institutions of higher education can award fellowships to talented graduate students from underrepresented groups to pursue graduate study, and to teach in colleges and universities.

The Senate bill also includes authorization for programs providing Hispanic-Serving Institutions funds to improve their capacity to carry out their important mission and funds to help higher education institutions develop programs to help teachers and administrators deal more effectively with students with disabilities.

Both the House and Senate bill extend the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). The Senate authorizes \$36 million for FIPSE's programs of research, demonstrations, and dissemination of best practices in higher education. The House provides \$30 million. The Senate, but not the House, reauthorized the United State Institute of Peace.

Foreign Language and International Studies

The programs under Title VI including graduate and undergraduate language and area centers, language resource centers, undergraduate international studies and foreign language instruction, American Overseas Research Centers, research and evaluation, business and international education, and the Institute for International Public Policy were renewed with minor changes. Both the House and the Senate authorized \$80 million for all of the programs, except for the business and international education programs which received \$18 million, and the Institute for International Public Policy which is authorized to spend \$10 million a year for its programs to attract underrepresented groups to international service.

HOUSE COMMITTEE FUNDS CENSUS FOR SIX MONTHS; NIJ, BJS INCREASED

The House will soon begin debate on the highly contentious Commerce, Justice, State, and The Judiciary Appropriations bill. The Appropriations Committee recommended a total of \$1.3 billion for the Census Bureau, \$64.1 million more than the President's request and \$558.9 million above the current year funding level. The amount includes \$140.1 million for salaries and expenses — \$2.9 million above the FY 1998 funding level, but \$20 million less than the President's request. In addition, the Committee recommended \$4 million for the Census Monitoring Board. The American Community Survey (ACS), the Census Bureau's planned replacement for the long-form questionnaire in the 2010 census, received \$20 million from the Committee, \$3.4 million above the current year funding level, but \$18.6 million below the President's request.

The bill that the House will consider would provide only six-months (until March 31, 1999) funding to the Bureau of the Census unless President Clinton and the Congress agree on an authorization bill that will determine whether statistical sampling will be used in the upcoming census.

The bill recommends a total of \$952 million for Census 2000. If approved as it stands, the Census Bureau, however, would only receive half that amount (\$476 million). This funding cap has drawn the ire of the Clinton administration, Secretary of Commerce William Daley, and several House Democrats. Representative Alan Mollohan (D-WV) plans to introduce an amendment to the appropriations bill that would eliminate the funding cap. The Mollohan amendment would also require the Census Bureau to continue to plan for conducting two different censuses — one with and one without statistical sampling — until the Supreme Court decides on the constitutionality of the Census Bureau's plans to use statistical sampling in the upcoming head count.

The Senate's version of the bill, which passed on the Senate floor on July 23 by a vote of 99-0, does not include language that would place a cap on the Census Bureau's funds.

NIJ, BJS Receive Increases

The Committee recommended a sizeable increase for the National Institute of Justice, the nation's primary source of research and development in the field of criminal justice. The Committee recommended \$52.6 million for NIJ — \$10 million above the FY 98 funding level, but \$6 million below the President's request.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) received \$25 million from the Committee, \$3.5 million above the current year funding level.

THREE SOCIAL SCIENTISTS DISCUSS IMPORTANCE OF SAMPLING

On July 20, Lynne Billard, former American Statistical Association President and current COSSA Board Member, joined two colleagues in explicating to the press the importance of using statistical sampling to provide a fair and accurate count for Census 2000. Professor of Statistics at the University of Georgia, Billard stressed the need to use the best science to get the best count. Over the years the Census Bureau has adopted the latest research advances to produce the Census, she explained. In 2000, she said, "the best current scientific method to obtain this measure [the uncounted people] involves statistical science, specifically sampling, a fundamental core of this science."

Robert Hill, Director of the Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University focused on the difficulties the Census has counting people in urban areas as the reason sampling is necessary. Eugene Erickson of Temple University discussed the undercount and demonstrated that completing the count by using sampling "will not have large effects" on congressional representation.

The press appeared quite interested in the charge by Rep. Dan Miller (R-FL), Chair of the Census Oversight Committee in the House, that sampling will lead to the removal of people from the count. The speakers noted that removal will come only if the person is counted twice, which sometimes happens, with dual home owners, college students, and others. David Murray, a congressional

appointee to the Census 2000 Monitoring Board, suggested somewhat facetiously, that rather than employing sampling at the currently planned 90 percent level (when the count has reached that figure), perhaps it should be employed even earlier in the process. Billard replied that unless the Census Bureau had unlimited time and unlimited resources, and could make everyone stay at home on Census Day, and red dots could be given to people after they were counted, there was no way to get a fair and accurate count without statistical sampling.

NSF AUTHORIZATION (cont.)

Activities numbers are \$2.847 in FY 1999 and \$2.935 in FY 2000. Unlike the appropriations bill, the authorization includes figures for each of the research directorates for FY 1999. The bill simply follows the administration's requested numbers, thus providing the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences directorate with \$150.3 million.

The enacted legislation also includes a provision prohibiting NSF spending on the Man and the Biosphere program, a U.N. sponsored environmental research activity. The bill also includes language calling for a report from the Office of Science and Technology Policy concerning indirect reimbursement costs to universities.

Authorization legislation are not the same as an appropriations bill. The latter provides the actual funding for agencies and programs each year.

DELAYS IN NSF PROGRAM

The National Science Foundation has informed *UPDATE* that the competition for FY 1998 funds for supplemental grants on child learning and development noted in the July 13th edition has been delayed. The information about the competition supposed to have been placed on the NSF Webpage is not there yet. NSF is hoping the delay will be short and will allow for a longer turnaround period between the grant applications and funding.

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