



# COSSA

## *Washington UPDATE*

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# **CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & NEWS**

## **FY 2015 Senate CJS Funding Bill Readied for Vote**

On June 5, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the fiscal year (FY) 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill (S. 2437). The bill provides funding for the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Justice, Census Bureau, and other agencies and programs important to the social and behavioral science community. COSSA's analysis of the bill, including how it compares to the [House bill](#) passed last month, can be found [here](#).

The bill could see a vote by the full Senate as soon as this week, though the date has yet to be set. While the subcommittee and full committee markups were uneventful in terms of amendments attacking social science programs, the Senate floor debate could be a different story. You can follow COSSA's real-time coverage of the FY 2015 appropriations process by following us on Twitter [@COSSADC](#) and [#Stand4Science](#).

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## **FY 2015 Senate Labor, HHS, Education Funding Bill Stalled**

On June 10, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS) approved via voice vote the fiscal year (FY) 2015 spending bill for the programs under its jurisdiction. However, it is unclear at this time when or if the measure will be considered by the full Appropriations Committee. Subcommittee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) reportedly has indicated that there are no plans for a markup by the full Appropriations Committee despite the Committee's original plans for a markup on June 12. Bill text has not yet been released; however, a [summary](#) can be found on the Appropriations Committee website.

[Read on](#) for COSSA's preliminary analysis.

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## **Agriculture Spending Bills Pass through Appropriations Committees in Both Chambers; Floor Consideration Begins**

The fiscal year (FY) 2015 Agriculture appropriations bills for both the House and Senate have passed through their respective committees. The Senate bill (S. 2389) was marked up by the Agriculture Subcommittee on May 20 and passed through the full Appropriations Committee on May 22. It is expected that the bill will be brought to the floor as part of a three-bill minibus, along with Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as early this week. The House version of the bill (H.R. 4800) passed through the Agriculture Subcommittee on May 20 and was voted through the full Appropriations Committee on May 29. Consideration of the bill on the House floor began on June 11. Although debate was originally expected to resume on June 17, it has now been put on hold, possibly due to the [upheaval in the Republican leadership](#).

Click [here](#) for COSSA's full analysis of both bills.

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## House Science Panel Looks at Reducing the Administrative Burden for Researchers

On June 12, the House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Oversight and Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a joint hearing focused on [Reducing the Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research](#). Testifying were Arthur Bienenstock, Chairman of the Task Force on Administrative Burden, National Science Board; Susan Wyatt Sedwick, Chair of the Federal Demonstration Partnership; Gina Lee-Glauser, Vice President for Research at Syracuse University; and Allison Lerner, Inspector General for the National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General. [Read on](#) for more details on the hearing.

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## Eric Cantor, Social Science Critic, Defeated

In a stunning political upset that surprised all of Washington, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) was defeated by Tea Party opponent David Brat in the Virginia Republican primary on June 10. A largely unknown candidate, Brat is a professor in economics at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA. Cantor has been an [outspoken critic](#) of federal funding for social science and has been a central figure in rallying his caucus and other supporters in favor of the [FIRST Act](#). Cantor announced this week that he will step down as majority leader, the number two majority position in the House, at the end of July. The state of the Republican House leadership will remain unsettled for the immediate near future.

## FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES & NEWS

### Office of Justice Programs Requests Nominations for Advisory Board

The Office of Justice Programs, which oversees the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, has issued a [notice](#) soliciting nominations for its Science Advisory Board. The Board was established by the Attorney General in 2010 and is tasked with providing advice "in the areas of science and statistics and for the purpose of enhancing the overall impact and performance of its programs and activities." The Board currently operates in six subcommittees: National Institute of Justice (NIJ); Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS); Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP); Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA); Quality and Protection of Science; and Evidence Translation/Integration. Nominations will be accepted through August 29,

2014. Please contact Phelan Wyrick at [phelan.wyrick@usdoj.gov](mailto:phelan.wyrick@usdoj.gov) for more information or to make a nomination.

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## 2014 DOD Minerva Awards Announced

The Department of Defense (DOD) has announced the [2014 Minerva Research Awards](#), including awards to several COSSA member institutions. Twelve projects will be funded in 2014-2017 for a total of \$17 million over three years. The awards were chosen competitively from among 261 white papers and 63 full submitted proposals.

The [Minerva Initiative](#) is a DOD-sponsored program launched in 2008 that awards grants to university-based social science researchers and teams. The goal of the initiative is to "improve DOD's basic understanding of the social, cultural, behavioral, and political forces that shape regions of the world of strategic importance to the U.S."

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## President's Bioethics Commission Meets on Ethical Implications of Neuroscience Advances

The [Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues](#) held a meeting on June 9 and 10 that focused on the ethical and moral implications of advances in neuroscience research. President Obama [charged](#) the Commission with considering these topics in light of the Administration's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. The Commission is chaired by Amy Gutmann, President of the University of Pennsylvania. Click [here](#) to read COSSA's full report on the meeting.

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## HIV/AIDS Research Portfolio Review Working Groups Submits Science Priorities Report to NIH Director

On May 28, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) HIV/AIDS Research Portfolio Review Working Group forwarded its final report, *Optimizing NIH HIV/AIDS Research in a Time of Budget Constraints*, to NIH director Francis Collins. They presented the report at the two-day Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) meeting on June 5 - 6. The report outlines key science priorities for NIH HIV/AIDS research for the next three to five years and responds to Collins' charge to the Working Group to identify the highest priority areas of HIV/AIDS research at the November 2013 Office of AIDS Research Advisory Committee (OARAC) meeting.

Office of AIDS Research (OAR) director Jack Whitescarver noted that his presentation to the ACD not only fell on the anniversary of the D-Day invasion but that June 6 was also the "D-Day" for the recognition of the AIDS pandemic, exactly 33 years ago, when the first cases of what is now known as AIDS were reported in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Rochelle Walensky, Harvard, presented the working group's priorities and recommendations to the ACD. She began by acknowledging the remarkable progress made over the last 33 years but also noted the "formidable challenge ahead." [Read on](#) for more details.

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## Strategies for Scientific Workforce Diversity

Newly appointed National Institutes of Health (NIH) Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity Hannah A. Valentine has begun to present her vision for scientific workforce diversity to the

various advisory council meetings across the NIH, most recently the May meeting of the National Advisory General Medical Council (NAGMSC) and the June meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Director of the NIH. Valantine, who has been in her position for nearly nine weeks, discussed the imperative for diversity; the problem, including underrepresentation and attrition; faculty recruitment and retention; interventions targeting culture, including unconscious bias, stereotype threat, and work/life balance; and NIH transformative programs. [Read on](#) for more details.

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## **NIGMS Council Meets; Discusses Rebalancing the Institute's Portfolio and Database Support and Management**

The May 2014 meeting of the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council (NAGMSC) included an update from the Institute's director John Lorsch, a presentation from the newly appointed National Institutes of Health (NIH) Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity Hannah A. Valantine (see [related story](#)), and a discussion of a concept clearance on data reproducibility training models. In his director's report Lorsch emphasized the need for a recalibration of the system to rebalance the Institute's research portfolio. Lorsch also reported on NIGMS' current collaboration with the National Human Genome Research Institute director Eric Green on several issues, including database support and management. [Read on](#) for more on the meeting.

## **NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **Board on Science Education Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On June 9, the Board on Science Education (BOSE) celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary by hosting a variety of panels on the history of the board and the current state of science education. These panels covered topics including the core mission of BOSE, how to handle government requests for research, the state of K-12 science education, the next generation of science standards, and challenges facing STEM education.

Experts from government agencies, universities, research organizations, and interested stakeholders spoke on a handful of topics, but a few themes prevailed throughout the day. For instance, most agreed that the wide and growing body of research on effective STEM education is neither being adequately spread nor used by practitioners. It is vitally important that researchers create bilateral or multilateral dialogues between themselves and teachers, school board members, and administrators to ensure their research reaches the right audiences. Finally, it is important that researchers recognize that they do not have all the answers and further research will always be necessary.

To conclude the session, retiring Congressman Rush Holt (D-NJ) participated in a panel on the challenges and future of STEM education. Holt, a physicist, emphasized the importance that all Americans have the ability to "think like scientists." Discussing the importance of the social sciences, Holt said that we "badly need" people on Capitol Hill to recognize sciences like economics can also be an empirical science.

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### **Congressional Briefing on the Health Effects, Changing Patterns of Use and Societal Impact of Marijuana - June 19**

On June 19, the Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse is sponsoring a Congressional

briefing, Marijuana: Health Effects, Changing Patterns of Use and Societal Impact. Marijuana abuse can impact both physical and mental health, and can have a variety of additional societal impacts. The [briefing](#) will address the fact that after a period of decline, since 2007, marijuana use has been increasing among young people. This decline corresponds to a diminishing perception of the risks associated with marijuana's use. Briefing speakers will include Wilson Compton, Deputy Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, who will provide an overview of the Institute's portfolio on marijuana research; Robert Booth, University of Colorado School of Medicine; and Patrick J. Kennedy, co-founder of Project SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana). COSSA is a co-sponsor of the briefing.

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## **National Academy of Sciences Holds Discussion on Integrated STEM Education**

On June 12, the National Academy of Sciences hosted a discussion on the "Integration in K-12 STEM Education in the United States." The discussion included a combination of researchers and practitioners and centered on outcomes, implementation, and research as they related to integrated STEM education. The National Academies also used this event to launch a new report and public relations campaign. The report, *STEM Integration in K-12 Education*, is available [here](#). The accompanying animated YouTube video, which the National Academies hopes will be shown in schools to demonstrate to teachers and students the importance of STEM, is available [here](#).

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## **Yvonne Maddox Recognized for Contributions to NICHD; Shares Vision for NIMHD with Advisory Council**

On June 9, the Friends of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) sponsored a Congressional briefing, "Celebrating the Career of Dr. Yvonne Maddox: Spotlight on Disparities Research," to recognize Yvonne Maddox, who recently retired after serving nearly 19 years as the deputy director for the Institute. COSSA is a member of the FNICHD's executive committee and was a sponsor of the briefing, which highlighted NICHD's efforts and support for health disparities research, one of Maddox's greatest interests and passions during her tenure at NICHD. The following day, Maddox presided over her first meeting with the National Advisory Council for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD) since being appointed. Maddox informed the Council that she had initiated a portfolio review for the Institute, and during her tenure the Institute intends to focus on what she calls the "science of health disparities research." To that end, Maddox reported that the Institute has created an Office of Community Based Participatory Research and Collaboration. [Read on](#) for more details.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Department of Education Announces Two Applications for New Awards**

The Department of Education released a call for applications for new awards in the **Language Resource Centers (LRCs) Program**. The LRC program provides grants to institutions of higher education for "establishing, strengthening, and operating centers that serve as resources for improving the Nation's capacity for teaching and learning foreign languages." This call for applications includes priority preferences for a variety of languages (the full list is available through the announcement [here](#)), and a preference for "significant and sustained collaborative activities with one or more Minority-Serving Institution or with one or more community college." The

deadline for applications is July 9, 2014, and applications are available at [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).

The second call is for applications in the **Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program**. This program provides grants for "planning, developing and carrying out programs to strengthen and improve undergraduate instruction in international studies and foreign languages in the United States." This call for applications includes the same priority preferences as the previous solicitation. More information is available [here](#), and the deadline is July 28, 2014 with applications available at [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).

## COSSA MEMBER ACTIVITIES

### PAA Briefing: The War on Poverty - 50 Years Later and the Battle Continues

On June 9, the Population Association of America, a COSSA Governing Member, hosted a Congressional briefing, "The War on Poverty - 50 Years Later and the Battle Continues." COSSA co-sponsored the event. It featured presentations by federal officials and university researchers who discussed current poverty trends and ways in which poverty is measured. Linda Jacobsen, Population Reference Bureau and chair of PAA's Government and Public Affairs Committee, moderated the briefing, noting in her introductory remarks that 50 years after President Lyndon Johnson declared war on poverty, 47 million Americans still live in poverty.

[Read on](#) for COSSA's summary.

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### New COSSA Member: West Virginia University

We are pleased to welcome [West Virginia University](#) back to COSSA. WVU, located in Morgantown, WV, was last a COSSA member in 2008. We look forward to working with them and all of our members in the months and years ahead to promote social and behavioral science! COSSA's full membership list can be viewed [online](#).

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## Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

### Governing Members

American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Public Opinion Research  
American Economic Association  
American Educational Research Association  
American Historical Association  
American Political Science Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society of Criminology  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Association of American Geographers  
Association of American Law Schools  
Law and Society Association  
Linguistic Society of America  
Midwest Political Science Association  
National Communication Association  
Population Association of America

### Colleges and Universities

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Boston University  
Brown University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Carnegie-Mellon University  
University of Chicago  
Clark University  
University of Colorado  
Columbia University  
University of Connecticut  
Cornell University  
University of Delaware  
Duke University

Society for Research in Child Development

## Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
American Evaluation Association  
American Finance Association  
American Psychosomatic Society  
Association for Asian Studies  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
Association of Research Libraries  
Council on Social Work Education  
Economic History Association  
History of Science Society  
Justice Research and Statistics Association  
Midwest Sociological Society  
National Association of Social Workers  
North American Regional Science Council  
North Central Sociological Association  
Rural Sociological Society  
Social Science History Association  
Society for Anthropological Sciences  
Society for Behavioral Medicine  
Society for Empirical Legal Studies  
Society for Research on Adolescence  
Society for Social Work and Research  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southern Sociological Society  
Southwestern Social Science Association

## Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social Sciences  
American Council of Learned Societies  
American Institutes for Research  
Brookings Institution  
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences  
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research  
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan  
Institute for Social Science Research, University of Massachusetts  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
Population Reference Bureau  
RTI International  
RWJF Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico  
Social Science Research Council  
Vera Institute of Justice

Georgetown University  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Harvard University  
Howard University  
University of Idaho  
University of Illinois  
Indiana University  
University of Iowa  
Johns Hopkins University  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY  
University of Maryland  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse  
University of Michigan  
Michigan State University  
University of Missouri, St. Louis  
University of Minnesota  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
New York University  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
North Dakota State University  
Northwestern University  
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*The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is an advocacy organization promoting attention to and federal support for the social and behavioral sciences.*

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