



FY 2015 Appropriations Bills Begin Moving in the House

May 5, 2014

On April 30, the House Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee marked up and reported out the fiscal year (FY) 2015 [CJS appropriations bill](#). The bill, which advanced through subcommittee without amendment, proposes increased funding in FY 2015 for agencies important to social and behavioral science.

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	FY 2015 House	House vs. FY 2014	House vs. Request
National Science Foundation	7171.9	7255.0	7409.6	3.31%	2.13%
Bureau of Justice Statistics	45.0	55.4	47.3	5.11%	-14.62%
National Institute of Justice	40.0	47.5	42.0	5.00%	-11.58%
Census Bureau	945.0	1211.4	1117.5	18.25%	-7.75%

(figures reported in millions of dollars)

Of particular note is what retiring Chairman Frank Wolf (R-VA) called the "record high" proposal for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The bill would provide NSF with a total of \$7.4 billion, which is an increase of 3.31 percent over the FY 2014 enacted level and 2.13 percent above the President's budget request. It would restore funding to the Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account—the budget line that funds NSF's science directorates—that was slated for a 0.03 percent cut under President Obama's budget request. COSSA has joined with the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) and the broader scientific community in support of a budget of \$7.5 billion for NSF in FY 2015; the House mark is a positive first step for NSF funding next year.

Within the Department of Justice, the bill would provide \$42 million for the **National Institute of Justice (NIJ)**, which is 5 percent over FY 2014 but 11.6 percent below the President's request. The **Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)** would receive \$47.3 million, 5 percent over FY 2014 but 14.6 percent below the President's request.

For the **Census Bureau**, the bill includes a total of \$1.12 billion, an increase of 18.3 percent over FY 2014, but 7.8 percent below the amount requested for the ramp up to the 2020 Decennial Census. Clouding the increase for Census, however, is a policy rider that would block the Bureau from further implementing changes to the Current Population Survey, which were announced in February. The survey's question changes are meant to collect data on current health insurance coverage in addition to coverage for the entire year. Republicans in Congress believe the change to be political and suggest it is meant to inflate numbers of those newly enrolled in insurance programs as a result of the *Affordable*

Care Act; they contend that the new questions would make it difficult to measure the real effect of the health care law. The Administration [asserts](#) that the change has been in the making for a number of years and is based on more than a decade of research.

The bill is expected to be marked up by the full Appropriations Committee later this week. Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) remains committed to trying to get all twelve appropriations bills to the House floor before the July 4 recess. While the Chairman has been able to advance a few of the less controversial appropriations bills through the House floor, it will only get tougher from this point on as the some of the more contentious bills enter the queue.

The report accompanying the CJS bill, which contains additional details, is expected to be released following the full committee mark up this week.

