

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## HILL STAFFER SAYS NIH SLATED FOR INCREASE

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is likely to receive a 4.7 percent increase over current funding in President Clinton's proposed Fiscal Year 1995 budget, which is scheduled for release on February 7. Mike Stephens, Chief Clerk of the Health and Human Services Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Rep. William Natcher (D-KY), made this announcement at a recent meeting with public members of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) Advisory Council.

In offering his perspective on FY 1995 appropriations for NIH, Stephens began with an explanation of the 1993 budget agreement which freezes discretionary spending at \$540 billion--not including inflation. This freeze means that increased spending in one program must be offset by decreasing spending in another, a "zero-sum game." Head Start, school reform, immunization initiatives, crime, dislocated workers, health research and services, among others all compete for the same resources. Stephens stated that President Clinton's State of the Union speech made it clear that cuts in defense spending would not make more money available for domestic programs.

Stephens also provided a ten-year history of growth for the NIH. In FY 1984, he reported that total spending for NIH was \$4.8 billion; in FY 1994 it was \$10.99 billion, an increase of 140 percent. Adjusted for inflation, the FY 1994 budget was \$7.1 billion, an increase of 65 percent. The success rate (the number of grants reviewed divided by the number of grants funded), was 32 percent in FY 1984, 25 percent in FY 1993, and, he anticipates, 28 percent in FY 1994. Research centers increased from 527 centers in FY 1984 to 869 centers in FY 1994. Trainees increased from 11,500 in FY 1984 to 15,000 in FY 1994.

For the NIA, Stephens reported a growth of 347 percent over ten years, from \$115 million in FY 1984, to \$399 million in FY 1994. Grants totaled 434 in FY 1984, and 946 in FY 1994; and centers increased from 7 in FY 1984 to 47 in FY 1994.

Stephens identified five NIH-related issues which are of concern to the Committee:

1) **Earmarking**--Stephens stated Chairman Natcher feels strongly that money for research at the NIH should be non-directed by Congress. He further explained, however, that since it is public money that funds NIH, Congress does have the right to have its say, but that it is Natcher's wish to keep targeted research at a minimum.

2) **Intramural Review**--Concerned about the quality of the intramural research program at NIH and the appropriate balance of the extramural/intramural programs, Congress has asked the NIH to conduct a review of its intramural programs to inform the debate about how resources should be allocated. Concern regarding the infrastructure at NIH was also expressed, particularly the estimated cost of \$1.6 billion for rebuilding a hospital on the NIH campus. The report of the review is due in February, and Stephens felt that a smaller hospital will probably be recommended.

3) **Women's Health Initiative**--At the request of Congress, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) reviewed the costs and scientific rationale of this study. Stephens said that the IOM reported flaws in the study, and recommended that it be modified.

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4) National Needs for Biomedical and Behavioral Research Personnel--The quadrennial review of research training needs by the National Research Council is due in February. Stephens anticipates that a reduction in the number of trainee slots will be recommended.

5) Dr. Harold Varmus, NIH Director--The Committee is very impressed and pleased with the new NIH Director, according to Stephens. "The Committee sees him as nonpolitical and feels very comfortable giving him money," reported Stephens.

Also at the meeting, Shirley Bagley of the Office of the Director of NIA, gave an update of current NIA research. Bagley listed the following as research priorities at NIA: prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease; an understanding of the process of aging; prevention of frailty and disability among the elderly; behavioral interventions to improve cognitive functioning; delay or prevention of long term care; attention to special populations including the very old, the elderly in rural areas, ethnic and racial groups; training and career development; international studies of aging; and health information dissemination. Directed by Congress in the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993, the NIA will also focus on nutrition screening and interventions as well as supporting more research on menopause in women.

The meeting was held because council members were concerned that long-range research and prevention programs may be at risk due to the need to find resources for universal health coverage and efforts to cut the federal deficit, and they wanted to

seek the advice of advocacy groups about the current budget cycle.

## SCIENCE EDUCATION REPORT EMBRACES SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has embarked on an ambitious undertaking to reform how America's students learn science, mathematics and technology called Project 2061. This AAAS project is one of the few science education efforts to include the social and behavioral sciences.

In 1989 Science for All Americans (SFAA) was published outlining science literacy goals for high school graduates, completing the first phase of the project. For the second phase, six school district teams were formed in different parts of the country to rethink the K-12 curriculum and outline alternative ways of achieving the SFAA goals. During the past four years these teams of teachers, administrators, Project 2061 staff and professional consultants worked to develop a common set of benchmarks.

These have now been published in Benchmarks for Science Literacy an attempt to specify how students should progress toward science literacy, recommending what they should know and be able to do by the time they reach certain grade levels. The key recommendation is to radically reduce the sheer amount of material now being covered and to focus on lasting knowledge and skills students need to grasp an increasingly scientific and technological society.

The approach is interdisciplinary, based on educational research, and concentrates on a common core of learning. Although it claims not to be a curriculum framework or plan, Benchmarks offers detailed recommendations for the concepts students should know, thus providing goals or standards that any decent curriculum should meet. These concepts are introduced in the early grades in simple form and built up into more sophisticated knowledge in the later grades.

The Benchmarks are designed around 12 major categories:

- 1) The Nature of Science
- 2) The Nature of Mathematics

### CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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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 \$60; institutional subscriptions, \$120, overseas mail, \$120. 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

- 3) The Nature of Technology
- 4) The Physical Setting
- 5) The Living Environment
- 6) The Human Organism
- 7) Human Society
- 8) The Designed World
- 9) The Mathematical World
- 10) Historical Perspectives
- 11) Common Themes
- 12) Habits of Mind

Most of the social and behavioral science concepts are introduced in Chapters 6 and 7. In Chapter 6, sections on How People Learn and Mental Health discuss concepts such as memory, perception, motivation, behavior, language usage, emotions, stress, and coping. The mention of language is relegated to the notion that in Grades 6 through 8 students should learn that "Language and tools enable human beings to learn complicated and varied things from each other." How they do that is not covered.

Chapter 7 focuses on the social sciences noting that these sciences "employ the evidence-based, hypothesis-testing, model-building approach of science in general to investigate social phenomena, using both qualitative and quantitative approaches, and they share the values characteristic of all science." It takes an interdisciplinary approach to help students learn "how social science illuminates human behavior." It presents benchmarks regarding cultural effects on behavior, group behavior, social change, social trade-offs, political and economic systems, social conflict, and global interdependence. These generally reflect basic concepts from anthropology, communications, demography, economics, law, political science, psychology and sociology. Geography and linguistics seem to have been ignored.

Making students informed consumers of data requires an understanding of statistics and probability, according to a key set of benchmarks in a section on uncertainty. Historical perspectives are also given prominence to provide examples and to connect students to special scientific events that are deemed "of surpassing significance to our cultural heritage," e.g. Galileo, Newton, Darwin, Pasteur. In addition, the impact of social and behavioral concepts is infused in other sections, including technological development.

Aside from some omissions, Benchmarks presents a set of challenges to curriculum developers. Project 2061 claims that Benchmarks is

### NSF SEEKS SBER DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The National Science Foundation is seeking candidates to become Deputy Director of the Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (SBER). This is a Senior Executive Service position. For more information, contact Acting Deputy Director John Yellen at (703) 306-1759.

a developing product open to periodic updates based on more research on learning and analyses of implementation efforts. Opportunities for additional input seem available.

The larger question is how these recommendations will compete with the development of national standards by various disciplines and how this attempt to include the social and behavioral sciences will be accepted by the K-12 science education community and the social studies education community.

### HOUSE PANEL HEARS UPDATE ON CENSUS REFORM; GAO CAUTIOUS

Outlining plans for a "simpler, cheaper, and more accurate" 2000 census, Census Bureau officials presented a House subcommittee with a congressionally-mandated report on efforts to reform the 2000 decennial survey.

The House Subcommittee on Census and Statistics, chaired by Rep. Tom Sawyer (D-OH), held a January 26 hearing to receive a study called for in a joint House-Senate report accompanying the Bureau's Fiscal Year 1994 appropriations bill. The request was an outgrowth of concerns of key appropriators over the 1990 survey's record high cost and inaccuracy as well as the pace of the Bureau's efforts to address these issues in its design of the 2000 survey.

Acting Census Bureau director Harry Scarr identified fundamental reforms that aim to reduce undercounts and contain costs. Outlined in greater detail in the September 27, 1993 issue of *Update*, the Bureau plans to use matrix sampling to reduce questionnaire size, sample non-respondents, work with the Postal Service to improve address lists, and make picking up and completing the questionnaire more user-friendly. These experiments will be key

## CONSUMER COUNCIL JOINS COSSA

COSSA is pleased to announce that the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI) has joined the Consortium as an Affiliate. ACCI is the oldest association dedicated to meeting the needs of consumer educators, researchers, and policy-makers. We look forward to working with the Council on issues of common concern.

components of the 1995 test census, which precedes the selection of the final design of the 2000 census.

William Hunt of the General Accounting Office, the hearing's other witness, offered a cautious endorsement of the Bureau's plans. Noting the sweeping nature of the proposed changes, Hunt commented on the strong need for consensus among all stakeholders and the short amount of time to achieve this. He said he was concerned about the "tempo" of the changes, saying "it's going to be difficult, but it's not impossible" for the Bureau to achieve its goals, adding that "they have not given themselves a lot of wiggle room."

### Lack of Permanent Director a Roadblock

Hunt said that the absence of a permanent Bureau director hinders the agency's abilities to make key decisions and build consensus with other parties. The Clinton administration has yet to make a nomination for this position. *(For an update on key Clinton nominations, see the chart on the next page.)*

Sawyer echoed these sentiments, commenting that the Bureau "must move quickly to answer any legitimate questions about its plans in order to build confidence about the upcoming tests and their results." According to Sawyer, the message from the appropriations panels is the "need to demonstrate the seriousness of our purpose."

## MENTAL HEALTH STUDY URGES EMPHASIS ON PREVENTION, MORE FEDERAL RESEARCH

A congressionally mandated report by a committee of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences recently

concluded that a greater focus on prevention is needed to alleviate the nation's multibillion dollar mental health care crisis. The report, entitled, Reducing the Risks for Mental Disorders: Frontiers for Preventive Intervention Research, measured the financial cost of mental illness in the U.S. "in the hundreds of billions of dollars," citing that "as many as one-third of our nation's people will suffer a diagnosable mental disorder sometime in their lives." The report further stated that while recent advances in defining, diagnosing, and treating major mental illnesses once they become full blown are crucial, many of these disorders display a chronic or relapsing course, and cures are rare.

### Prevention Research a Low Priority

Research on ways to prevent mental disorders has, up until now, had a low priority within the federal government in sharp contrast to the substantial support for prevention research for physical disorders, the committee noted. "The logic of trying to prevent the occurrence of mental disorders is clear," said committee chair Robert J. Haggerty, professor of pediatrics emeritus at the School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Rochester. "It is time to take a fresh look at prevention to see if it can be made to function as a full partner with new treatment approaches in addressing our nation's mental health care crisis."

The IOM committee, representing a wide range of disciplines and funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, recommended expansion of the knowledge base for understanding mental disorders through focusing on research emphasizing interaction between biological and psychosocial risk factors; a child epidemiology study; population studies; and an inventory of current health-promotion activities. Reducing the Risks for Mental Disorders demonstrates an understanding that many theoretical concepts originating in the behavioral sciences are relevant to research on prevention of mental disorders, particularly, "self-esteem, regulation of emotions, attribution, cultural and gender-based diversity, social networks, community context, and ecological perspectives."

### Calls for Federal Research Centers

Registering a preference for "an overarching federal council operating out of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy" as a coordinating option, the committee recommends establishing two preventive intervention research centers within the federal government, one for

## CLINTON NOMINEES FOR KEY SOCIAL SCIENCE POSITIONS

The following chart highlights key presidential nominations relevant to COSSA's constituency. As the Clinton administration completes its first year in office, most appointments have been filled, though key positions at the Census Bureau and the Justice Department remain vacant. An earlier version of this chart appears in the June 14, 1993 issue of *Update*.

explanation of status: 1 - currently in office; 0 - no nominee

Agency	Position	Nominee	Status
National Science Foundation	Director	Neal Lane	1
	Deputy Director		0
Office of Science and Technology Policy	Director	John Gibbons	1
	Associate Director for Science	M.R.C. Greenwood	1
	Asst. Dir. for Social Science		0
Agriculture	Asst. Sec., Sci. and Educ.		0
Commerce	Director, Census Bureau		0
Council of Economic Advisers	Chair	Laura D'Andrea Tyson	1
	Members	Alan Blinder, Joseph Stiglitz	1
Education	Asst. Sec. for Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) Asst. Sec., Post-Sec. Educ.	Sharon Porter Robinson	1
		David Longanecker	1
Health and Human Services	Director, National Institutes of Health	Harold Varmus	1
	Asst. Sec. for Health	Philip Lee	1
	Asst. Sec. for Planning and Evaluation	David Ellwood	1
	Asst. Sec. for Children and Families	Mary Jo Bane	1
Housing and Urban Development	Asst. Sec. for Policy Research and Development	Michael Stegman	1
Justice	Asst. AG for Justice Programs		0
	Dir., Natl. Inst. of Justice		0
	Dir., Bur. of Justice Statistics		0
	Dir., Office of Juvenile Justice		0
Labor	Commissioner of Labor Statistics	Katharine Abraham	1
	Asst. Sec., Empl. and Training	Doug Ross	1
	Asst. Sec. for Policy		0
Office of Management and Budget	Deputy Director	Alice Rivlin	1
	Deputy Director for Management Admin., Office of Information Regulatory Affairs	Phil Lader*	0
		Sally Katzen	1
National Archives and Records Administration	Archivist of the United States		0
National Endowment for the Humanities	Chairman	Sheldon Hackney	1
United States Information Agency	Director	Joseph Duffey	1

\* now White House Deputy Chief of Staff

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to inclement weather and power shortages in the Washington area, this issue of *Update* was delayed one week. *Update* resumes its regular bi-weekly schedule, with the next issue published on February 14.

depression and another for childhood disorders, as additions to current, promising small-scale programs whose focuses are risks for alcohol abuse and conduct disorders.

### Urges \$50 Million Increase

Federal funding to support an improved research agenda should be increased \$50 million to \$61 million each year over the next five fiscal years, the committee recommended. (The committee estimates that only \$20 million of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \$2 billion dollar 1991 budget for prevention activities related to mental disorders was spent for rigorous preventive intervention research to stop the onset of mental disorders.) The IOM committee's proposed agenda would facilitate development in three important areas: "building the infrastructure to coordinate research and service programs and to train and support new investigators; expanding the knowledge base for preventive interventions; and conducting well-evaluated preventive interventions."

In developing its report the committee used a broad definition of mental disorder, including substance abuse and Alzheimer's disease, and defined prevention and preventive intervention research to be limited to "the period prior to the initial onset of a mental disorder."

Copies of the complete report are available by contacting the National Academy Press in Washington, D.C. at (202) 334-3313 or nationally at 1-800-624-6242.

## BJS STUDY LOOKS AT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A recent study of violence against women shows that two-thirds of these attacks were committed by someone the victim knew -- such as a husband, boyfriend, other family member or acquaintance -- a much higher figure than for men.

The survey, conducted by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), found approximately 2.5 million of the nation's 107 million females 12 years old and older were raped, robbed, or assaulted in a typical year, or were the victim of a threat or an attempt to commit such a crime. Twenty-eight percent of the offenders were intimates, such as husbands or boyfriends, and another 39 percent were acquaintances or relatives.

"The number of women attacked by spouses, former spouses, boyfriends, parents or children is more than 10 times higher than the number of males attacked by such people," said Acting Bureau Director Lawrence A. Greenfeld.

Approximately one in four attacks involved the use of a gun or knife, according to the study. Young, black and Hispanic women were especially vulnerable, as were poor single women with low education levels who lived in inner cities. The findings were drawn from more than 400,000 interviews conducted between 1987 and 1991.

### Crimes Against Males Decreased

The report pointed out that although violent crimes against males have decreased since BJS started its annual victimization surveys in 1973, the rate against females has remained relatively constant. However, males were victimized at a 63 percent higher rate than females -- 40.5 violent offenses per 1,000 males compared to 24.8 per 1,000 females.

Although black females were more than twice as likely as were white females to be robbery victims, there were no significant racial differences in per capita rates among female victims of rape or assault.

Eighteen percent of the women who were attacked by intimates did not report the offense to police because they feared reprisal from their attackers, compared to 3 percent who were attacked by strangers.

Copies of the report, "Violence Against Women" can be obtained by calling (800) 732-3277.

## 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.

### Directorate for Education and Human Resources Division of Graduate Education and Research Development

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the FY 1994 competition for the Graduate Research Traineeship (GRT) Program. The principle objective of the program is to increase the numbers of talented American undergraduates enrolling in doctoral programs which NSF has selected as being particularly representative of our nation's science priorities in the following areas in the social and behavioral sciences:

**Cognitive Science:** Interdisciplinary training in the study of the capacities and processes of the mind, bringing to bear methods and perspectives from cognitive psychology, linguistics, computer science, cognitive neuroscience, and related fields.

**Democratization:** Interdisciplinary training in the foundation of democracies, including the variety of contributions that the social and behavioral sciences can make to understanding the formation, stabilization, and maintenance of democratic systems. It is anticipated that the list of targeted subdisciplines will be reviewed annually and, therefore, is subject to change if there are subsequent competitions.

**Award Criteria:** Graduate Research Traineeship awards are packages of student support. The colleges and universities that receive the awards are responsible for the selection of trainees, retention of trainees, and administration of traineeships. Approximately 30 awards will be made, supporting 150 traineeship positions in FY 1994.

**Eligible Disciplinary Area:** Each proposal must be developed around one of the previously identified targeted subdisciplines.

**Stipend Level/Award Type:** Within each award, traineeships will provide a \$14,000/year stipend and a \$7,500/year cost-of-education allowance in lieu of tuition and fees normally charged to students of similar academic standing (unless such charges are optional or refundable). Contingent upon satisfactory progress and the availability of funds, the Foundation expects to provide renewal support annual for a maximum of five years.

**Number of Traineeship Positions:** Approximately 30 awards will be made, supporting five (5) traineeship positions each.

**Closing Date:** March 31, 1994

**Contact:** Roosevelt Johnson, Division of Graduate Education and Research Development, National Science Foundation, (703) 306-1696.

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American Psychological Association  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Association of American Geographers

Association of American Law Schools  
Law and Society Association  
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