

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume XIV, Number 14

July 31, 1995

## **NSF APPROPRIATIONS SURVIVES HOUSE FLOOR ACTION** HS

The House of Representatives passed the FY 1996 VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations bill on July 31 by a vote of 228-193. The National Science Foundation (NSF) emerged from the House floor with an appropriation of \$3.16 billion, the same amount allocated by the appropriations committee.

An amendment sponsored by Rep. John Ensign (R-NV) to transfer \$100 million from NSF to the Veteran's Affairs Department was roundly defeated 121-296. Members such as Reps. Robert Walker (R-PA), George Brown (D-CA), Jerry Lewis (R-CA), Robert Livingston (R-LA), and Mike Doyle (D-PA), spoke out strongly against the Ensign amendment.

The Research account remained at \$2.254 billion, a decrease of \$26 million from FY 1995 and a \$200 million reduction from the President's FY 1996 request. According to the Committee report language, "the reduction recommended by the Committee is taken without prejudice and is to be allocated by the Foundation in accordance with internal procedures, subject to approval by the Committee."

Unlike the proposed House Science Committee report concerning NSF's reauthorization, there is no language regarding elimination of a directorate or denigrating the social, behavioral and economic sciences. On the contrary, the House Appropriations Committee report "commends the Foundation for its efforts to advance fundamental knowledge about interpersonal conflict, through support of a National Consortium for Research on Violence." The Committee recommends that NSF spend \$2 million on the Consortium in FY 1996 (same as FY 1995). The competition to select the Consortium has entered its final stage and an announcement is expected in late Summer.

The appropriations committee report also endorsed the NSF's Urban Systemic Initiative in the Education and Human Resources Directorate. The appropriators' expressed renewed concern for the

Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCOR). This program helps small States to improve their universities' chances of competing for NSF awards. The Committee directed NSF to report by December 1, 1995 indicating how the Foundation can do a better job "mainstreaming" EPSCOR researchers into research directorate activities including participation on panels, advisory committees and other bodies.

The Senate will not begin the appropriations process on the VA, HUD, Independent Agencies bill until September. The House bill, because of its provisions regarding HUD (\$5 billion cut), EPA (33 percent reduction and prohibitions against its regulatory activity), the Corporation for National Service (eliminated), has been dubbed by the Democratic minority in the House as "callous and dangerous." President Clinton has noted that he will veto the bill if substantial changes do not occur.

### **HUD Office of Policy Development and Research**

HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research survived with \$34 million appropriated by the House for FY 1996, a cut of \$8 million or 19 percent. The office conducts research, studies, testing and demonstrations related to the HUD mission. In

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recent years, it has been the agency responsible for developing the internal reforms of the Department following the scandals in the Reagan administration.

## NIH RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

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The House Appropriations Committee, after three days of debate, approved more than \$60 billion in discretionary funding for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The full House will take up the bill during the week of July 31. The measure, which includes a number of non-spending provisions, is expected to have a difficult time passing the House as currently written.

While the National Institutes of Health (NIH) received a significant increase in funding, other agencies had to settle for level or reduced funding. The bill includes \$11.9 billion for NIH, a 5.7 percent or \$642 million increase above the Fiscal Year 1995 funding level. This amount also reflects a \$174.9 million increase above the President's budget request, a funding level that indicated the Committee's view that NIH is one of its "very highest priorities."

The Committee, as did the Subcommittee, did not provide the single appropriation for AIDS research to be distributed to the institutes, centers and divisions by the Office of AIDS Research (OAR) in accordance with that office's strategic plan. According

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to the Committee's report, it "believes the Director of NIH, acting in consultation with the Director of the Office of AIDS Research, should decide how much of the total NIH appropriation should be allocated to AIDS research." The Committee intends that the funds devoted to AIDS research "should continue fully to exploit scientific opportunities and to fulfill scientific objectives in this critically important program."

After a significant lobbying effort by AIDS research proponents, the report language was strengthened to involve the Director of the OAR in identifying the funding needs of AIDS research. The NIH Director, "through the Director of the Office of AIDS Research," is expected to identify prior to the conference on the FY 1996 appropriations bill the total funding allocated for AIDS research and the intended distribution by Institute under the House funding level. The Committee provided the Director with transfer authority and encouraged NIH to use it whenever an adjustment in the allocation of AIDS funding between institutes is necessary.

The report language also clarifies the Committee's intentions with regard to OAR, its leadership, and its coordinated budget planning process, noting that it "expects the individual institutes, centers and division to fully cooperate with OAR's work." The Committee applauds the work of the OAR external review panel and expects its recommendations "to guide and inform the NIH Director's allocation of AIDS funding."

Also included in the bill is \$595.2 million for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), an increase of \$8.27 million over the President's request and \$26.33 million over last year's level. The Committee expressed strong support for NICHD's demographic research and urged the Institute "to continue giving its demographic research high priority." The Committee applauded NICHD's research efforts on Rett Syndrome, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and autism.

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) received a funding level of \$453.9 million, an increase of \$6.3 million over the requested amount and \$19.3 million over the FY 1995 funding level. The report highlights NIA's demographic, behavioral and social research program. "The Committee continues to support such research and the analysis of its data,

placing special emphasis on the Health and Retirement and the AHEAD studies, and similar statistical surveys and data bases."

Included in the bill is \$55.8 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). This amount represents \$776 million more in funding than the President requested and \$3.0 million more than FY 1995.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism was allocated \$198.6 billion in funding for FY 1996, an increase of \$2.7 million more than requested and \$8.5 million more than last year.

The bill funds the National Institute on Drug Abuse at a level of \$458.4 an increase of \$21.0 million over the amount appropriated last year and \$6.4 million more than the President requested.

The House allocated \$661.3 million for the National Institute of Mental Health. The amount is a \$9.2 million increase over the request and \$30.0 million more than was appropriated in FY 1995. The Committee commended NIMH on its prevention research efforts, citing NIMH "for developing an implementation plan to address the recommendations of the 1994 Institute of Medicine report *Reducing Risk of Mental Disorders: Frontiers for Preventive Intervention Research*." The Committee urged the Institute to meet the need to train mental disorder prevention researchers as well as continue its support for the B-START program and to take the lead among Federal research agencies in coordinating research efforts to prevent mental disorders.

The report acknowledged the Committee's continued support for basic behavioral science research as recommended by NIMH's Advisory Council, recommending increased emphasis for individual investigator grants. NIMH is urged to collaborate with NICHD regarding the inclusion of the symptoms of autism in its "large-scaled investigation of the prevalence of various disease and disorder symptoms in children."

Lastly, the Committee report sanctions behavior modification research as it relates to crime and violence, including "research questions involved in psychological profiling of violent, criminal, and destructive personalities."

## CORRECTION

The Office of AIDS Research was not eliminated as indicated by the subheading in the last issue of *Update*. However, the consolidated appropriation that funds NIH's AIDS-related research was eliminated. For more details see page two.

## HOUSE PROVIDES DETAILS OF JUSTICE, CENSUS FUNDING

On July 26 the House approved, 272-151, Fiscal Year 1996 funding for the departments of Commerce, Justice, and State. Most of the funding levels for research and related programs in the bill were outlined in the July 17 *Update*, but the recently released report that accompanied the bill provided greater budgetary detail for justice research and statistics programs and stern policy recommendations for the Census Bureau.

For the National Institute of Justice, the House voted \$28.0 million, \$1 million over current funding. Within this amount, NIJ was urged to fund a national study on issues related to correctional health care services. As in previous years, significant funding was set-aside for NIJ's work in converting defense technologies to less-than-lethal civilian law enforcement uses. Funding for the Bureau of Justice Statistics was held at its current level of \$21.4 million. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention was allocated \$148.5 million, down from the current \$155.3 million.

The report, drafted by the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Subcommittee, expressed the panel's continued displeasure with the Census Bureau, citing its "inability to face budgetary realities." The panel, chaired by vocal Census Bureau critic Rep. Harold Rogers (R-KY), said "the status quo is unacceptable" and ordered the Bureau to develop by November 1 a reprioritization proposal for all of its functions that includes possible elimination of agency programs. In planning the 2000 Census, the Bureau was strongly urged to consult with the Subcommittee prior to making any decisions regarding content, methodology, and design of the decennial survey.

## HOUSE PASSES AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL; NRI REDUCED SLIGHTLY HS

By a vote of 313-78, the full House passed the FY 1996 Agriculture and Rural Development appropriations bill on July 21.

During debate on the House floor a number of amendments affected funding for the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants program (NRI) and other activities of interest to social, behavioral and economic scientists.

Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI) successfully sponsored an amendment to reduce NRI funding by \$445,000 to restore the Special Grant for research on sustainable agriculture at Michigan State University. Rep. Gary Condit (D-CA) sponsored a successful amendment modified by Rep. Joe Skeen (R-NM), Chairman of the Agriculture appropriations subcommittee, to reduce the NRI by \$200,000 and the Extension Service by \$200,000, in order to increase funding by \$400,000 to the Office of the Chief Economist. The funding "will both be used to enter into contracts with experts in the field of risk assessment to provide the Department of Agriculture with guidance in how its Office of Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis should operate, and to hire an economist to work in this office." The NRI budget for FY 1996 that emerged from the House was thus reduced to \$98.2 million, an increase of slightly over \$3 million increase from FY 1995 (see *Update*, July 17).

A third amendment sponsored by Rep. Wayne Allard (R-CO) would have reduced the budgets for the Economic Research Service, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and ten other smaller accounts by \$12 million in the cause of further budget cutting. It failed by a vote of 196-232.

## PANEL SAVES COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, ABOLISHES DRUG OFFICE HS

Following the surprise action of the House to eliminate the President's Council of Economic Advisers, a bipartisan group of former Chairs of the Council lobbied strongly to keep the Council alive. Their efforts paid off in the Senate Treasury, Postal Service, General Government Appropriations

Subcommittee, and were ratified by the full Senate Appropriations panel.

The Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL), one of the two Senators who switched parties after the 1994 elections, restored the \$3.4 million to fund the CEA in FY 1996. Shelby has said that a "personal appeal" from Alan Greenspan, current head of the Federal Reserve Board and a former CEA Chair, persuaded the Subcommittee to revive the office in the White House that provides professional economic advice to the President. Others involved in the effort to save the CEA included COSSA President Charles Schultze, National Bureau of Economic Research President Martin Feldstein, and American Enterprise Institute Scholar Herbert Stein, all former Chairmen.

The same Subcommittee abolished the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy headed by former New York and Houston police chief, Lee Brown. The Office had just begun a new emphasis on controlling and preventing marijuana use (*see story on page six*). The House had decided to continue funding the office more than doubling its budget to \$20 million..

The differences among the House and Senate versions (assuming the Committee's decisions hold on the Senate floor) will require negotiations in a House-Senate conference committee.

## HOUSE, SENATE AGREE TO KILL TECHNOLOGY OFFICE HS

A House-Senate conference committee on the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill has agreed to kill the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). The House had voted to move OTA's functions to the Congressional Research Service and provided \$15 million of Library of Congress appropriations for that purpose. OTA's budget in FY 1995 was \$22 million. An attempt by Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-SC) to save the Office during Senate consideration of the appropriations bill on July 20 failed when his amendment was tabled by a vote of 54-45.

Created in 1972 to provide technical advice to the Congress, OTA produced numerous reports on various scientific and technical matters during its 23 year history. Despite some bipartisan support in both

Houses, the conference committee agreed with Sen. Harry Reid's (D-NV) assessment that OTA was "a luxury" we can no longer afford.

### CLINTON SIGNS REVISED RESCISSIONS BILL *HS*

President Clinton signed July 27 revised legislation rescinding \$16.3 billion in funds from agencies' FY 1995 (which ends September 30) budgets. The bill cleared the Senate on July 24. After the President vetoed an earlier version of the bill, White House-Congressional negotiations led to the restoration of some funds for education reform, training programs, the Corporation for National and Community Service and drug courts. Ironically, some of these same programs have been severely cut or eliminated in the FY 1996 appropriations bills now making their way through Congress. The bill still includes disaster assistance funds for Oklahoma City and California. It still removes \$132 million for NSF's Academic Research Infrastructure program, funds included in the FY 1995 appropriation with strings attached (see *Update*, March 6).

### HUMANITIES FUNDING CUT *MB*

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has been facing attacks on its future vitality and existence on several fronts on Capitol Hill in recent weeks.

In passing the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill on July 18, the House rejected, 148-277, an amendment offered by Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) that would have eliminated NEH this year. Despite the stay of execution, the bill as approved would phase out the Endowment over the next three years, consistent with a reauthorization bill approved earlier this year by the House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee. NEH would receive \$99.5 million for Fiscal Year 1996, a 40 percent reduction over current funding.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies agreed on July 26 to fund NEH at \$114.5 million for FY 1996. This figure was reached after the panel approved an amendment by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-AR) that added \$15 million

to the Subcommittee's draft allocation for the agency. The full Senate Appropriations Committee approved the legislation later in the same week, and the bill could reach the Senate floor before the August recess.

On July 18 the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee voted, 12-4, to reauthorize NEH for the next five years, reducing authorized appropriations by five percent each year.

COSSA would like to acknowledge John Hammer and his staff at the National Humanities Alliance for their efforts in informing the social science community on this issue.

### ELLIOTT RETIRES AS COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION STATISTICS *HS*

Emerson Elliott, Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) since 1992, retired recently after 38 years as a distinguished civil servant. Elliott was hailed at his retirement party on July 12 as a consummate professional who transformed an agency, severely criticized by a 1986 National Research Council report for collecting inaccurate data, into a solid, professional arm of the federal statistical system.

In the early years of his commissionership, NCES received substantial budgetary enhancements and added responsibilities. In more recent years, NCES' budgets have been level funded at best, but the responsibilities have not diminished, necessitating a prioritizing of data collection and dissemination.

As Congress kept altering the nature and independence of NCES, Elliott, since 1984, has had the title of Commissioner, Acting Commissioner, Director, and Administrator. A veteran of the Department of Education, he served as Director of the Issues Analysis Staff and the Planning and Education Service prior to taking over NCES. From 1971-77, Elliott was Deputy Director of the National Institute of Education. He also spent many years at the old Bureau of the Budget, beginning his federal career late in the Eisenhower administration.

Elliott will not slip quietly into retirement. He has agreed to become a consultant to the new Office of

Educational Research and Improvement's Policy and Priorities Board and will work on projects with the National Council for the Accreditation of Teachers of Education.

Jeanne Griffith, Associate Commissioner for Data Development, is now Acting Commissioner.

## **NIDA HOLDS CONFERENCE ON MARIJUANA USE**

AD

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in collaboration with the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services held its first national conference on marijuana in Arlington, Va., July 19 - 20. The conference, **The National Conference on Marijuana Use: Prevention, Treatment, and Research**, is part of the agencies' response to recent findings that marijuana use is once again increasing among America's youth. It is also part of ongoing marijuana prevention efforts aimed at reaching young people.

Alan Leshner, Director of NIDA, in opening remarks to more than 500 participants of the two-day meeting, announced that the conference had been convened "to provide scientifically based information on marijuana, to dispel commonly held myths surrounding marijuana use, to increase public awareness of the rising trends in marijuana use, and to educate the public about the consequences of marijuana use, especially for young people." According to Leshner, "marijuana is currently the most widely used illicit drug in the United States." Recent research shows that its use is growing among our nation's youth. "Marijuana use," said Leshner, "starts at a younger age -- the average age of first use is about 13.5 years old." "We expect that by communicating what science has uncovered about marijuana, we can help people who are looking for reliable information to use in their homes, schools and communities," Leshner said.

"By bringing together at this meeting the three major forces necessary to counter substance abuse in our society - prevention, treatment, and research - NIDA has opened the door for closer, and more collaboration . . . neither prevention nor treatment

could succeed without research findings to focus our efforts," affirmed Vivian Smith the Deputy Director of CSAP.

Attending the conference were representatives of professional prevention and treatment communities, scientific experts on the effects of marijuana both behavioral and biomedical, and concerned families.

## **Secretary Shalala and Drug Czar Brown give Keynote Addresses**

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, in the first of two keynote addresses, declared that "it's time for a national conversation about marijuana and how fitting to begin that conversation in a scientific venue." Shalala stated that "we must merge the broad commitments of the Clinton drug strategy with state and local efforts to fashion anti-drug messages rooted in science and research."

Shalala drew attention to budget cuts made by the House Labor/HHS Appropriations subcommittee. The subcommittee approved a 75 percent cut in funding for demonstration efforts in drug abuse prevention and treatment. "Total reductions would affect prevention services nationwide, and cut treatment services for more than 26,000 people," she said.

Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Lee Brown, in the second keynote address, declared the conference a wakeup call. Brown said "we who have access to the most accurate and advanced information should be driving the discussion about finding solutions to the drug problem." He asked that the "experts in the field," assist him in the crusade against dangerous drugs. Brown also asked the "experts" to "spread the word to parents and children about the work that you are doing." (*for details on the problems facing Brown's office, see page four*)

## **Public Information Booklets and Public Service Announcements on Marijuana Unveiled**

Shalala displayed two new public information booklets on marijuana, *Marijuana: What Parents Need to Know* and *Marijuana: Facts for Teens*. She also unveiled two new public service announcements created and produced by the Partnership for A Drug-Free America. The television ads were designed to encourage parents to talk to their children about the

dangers of smoking marijuana. "A growing number of teenagers see smoking marijuana as no big deal, and that attitude is gaining momentum," said Richard Bonnette, president and CEO of Partnership. "But the body of research released by the National Institute on Drug Abuse confirms that smoking marijuana is a big deal, especially for kids who are in critical years of emotional, physical and psychological development."

### New Research Findings

The agenda was quite comprehensive, with more than 60 researchers on hand to speak about specific scientific research that they had conducted on marijuana use. Several of the researchers released new research findings during the two-day event.

Lloyd Johnston of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan and the principal investigator for the NIDA funded *Monitoring the Future* Survey, discussed some findings from the study. The survey monitors trends and patterns of drug use and related attitudes among adolescents and young adults. Secretary Shalala released the findings of the 1994 survey last December. Johnston intends to examine further the magnitude of the recent upturn in marijuana use and the importance of peer norms and students' attitudes about marijuana.

Billy R. Martin, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the Medical College of Virginia, presented research which may lay to rest myths about marijuana not being addictive. Using standard proven methods, which have demonstrated addiction to other drugs of abuse, Martin's research has revealed marijuana is indeed addictive.

Donald Tashkin, Professor of Medicine at UCLA, discussed his research on the pulmonary consequences of habitual marijuana use that include symptoms of chronic bronchitis, an increased frequency of acute chest illnesses, a heightened risk of pulmonary infection, a variable tendency to airways obstruction and an apparently increased risk of malignancy involving both the upper airway and the lung.

Judith Brook, Professor of Community Medicine at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in NY, reported the findings of her multi-generational study over the last 20 years of over 1,000 marijuana using parents and their children. The findings show certain factors

predispose young people to marijuana: children who are aggressive and who have a distant relationship with their parents are more likely to use marijuana as young adults; and adolescents at risk for marijuana use exhibit rebelliousness, poor school achievement, difficulty in family relationships, and relationships with peers who use drugs.

Lastly, Peter Fried, Professor of Psychology at Carleton University in Canada, presented an update of his ongoing research regarding the children of mothers who used marijuana or cigarettes during pregnancy. His preliminary evidence suggests that prenatal marijuana exposure is associated with impaired executive function (the intellectual ability which involves decision-making and future planning).

NIDA will prepare a summary of the conference.

### PEACE INSTITUTE OFFERS DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS *MB*

The United States Institute of Peace invites applications for Peace Scholar awards offered by the Institute's Jennings Randolph Program for International Peace. These fellowships are intended to support the research and writing of dissertations addressing the sources and nature of international conflict and the full range of ways to prevent or end conflict and to sustain peace.

Dissertation projects from all disciplines are welcome. Priority will be given to projects that promise to make a contribution to theory and practice in international affairs. The Institute expects to award at least 10 Peace Scholars fellowships for 1996-97. This is a highly competitive program that in recent years has attracted more than 200 applicants annually.

The program is open to citizens of any country who are doctoral students at a university in the United States and who will have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree except the dissertation by September 1996. The stipend is \$14,000 for 12 months, beginning in September 1996.

For more information, contact the United States Institute of Peace, 1550 M Street, N.W., Suite 700F, Washington, D.C. 20005-1708. Phone: (202) 429-3886.

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