

**PRESIDENT SIGNS VA, HUD BILL; NSF RESEARCH UP 5.1 PERCENT** *HS*

On September 26, President Clinton signed the VA, HUD, Independent Agencies FY 1997 appropriations bill into law. The bill includes funding for the National Science Foundation. It was the last of the 13 appropriations bills enacted as a stand-alone bill. The other six appropriations bills have been rolled into an Omnibus Appropriations bill which will pass the Congress on September 30 (see following story).

After a relatively quick House-Senate conference committee, both chambers rapidly concurred in the reconciled VA, HUD bill and sent it to the President. The new law contains \$3.27 billion for the National Science Foundation for FY 1997. This is \$55 million, or 2 percent above the FY 1996 level. It provides \$2.342 billion for Research and Related Activities (R&RA), an increase of \$118 million or 5.1 percent above last year's level. Funds for large-scale instrumentation totaling \$50 million, previously in the academic research infrastructure account are now included in R&RA. The Education and Human Resources account received \$619 million, a \$20 million or 3.3 percent increase over FY 1996.

The conferees accepted the Senate recommendation of \$134.5 million for Salaries and Expenses. Thus, they rejected the House attempt, through the amendment offered by Rep. Robert Walker (R-PA), to reduce this account by \$9 million. If Walker's amendment had survived, according to NSF, significant personnel cuts would have been necessary, interfering with the grant-making process. Many interpreted Walker's move as an attempt to force NSF to implement the recommendation he pushed in the House version of an NSF reauthorization bill to eliminate one of NSF's directorates. The authorization bill, which passed the House, did not get enacted, since the Senate evinced no interest in it.

The VA, HUD bill also includes \$34 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research.

**CONGRESS TO PASS OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL AND GO HOME** *HS*

White House and Congressional negotiators reached agreement early Saturday morning, September 28 on an Omnibus bill that will fund the six unpassed FY 1997 appropriations bills, add some funds to agencies with already enacted appropriations, and include an immigration reform package. The House passed the legislation on September 28 and the Senate is expected to follow suit on September 30.

**NIH Receives 6.9 Percent Increase**

Details of the multi-thousand page bill are sketchy, but indications are that the National Institutes of Health will receive the full 6.9 percent increase voted it by the House. This would give NIH \$12.7 billion for FY 1997, an \$819 million increase over FY 1996.

Funding levels for the agencies of the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Education, Health and Human Services, Interior, Justice, State, Treasury and the independent agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities, will be provided in the next issue of *Update*, October 14.

**INSIDE UPDATE...**

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- Takanishi Short Term Replacement at White House Science Office
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## HOUSE PANEL REJECTS CENSUS SAMPLING *MB*

In yet another indication of congressional skepticism toward the use of statistical sampling in the 2000 census, a House panel adopted a report sharply critical of the proposed methodology.

Voting 22-12 on September 18, the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee approved a committee report, *Sampling and Statistical Adjustment in the Decennial Census: Fundamental Flaws*, that rejects the cornerstone of the Census Bureau's proposed efforts to improve accuracy and lower costs in the decennial survey. The panel said "The Bureau should not use sampling methods to complete or adjust the actual enumeration."

The report, which does not have the force of law, doubts that sampling will improve accuracy and states that it would make the final count vulnerable to political manipulation. The committee, chaired by Rep. William Clinger (R-PA), found that:

- "Sampling/statistical adjustment are inherently problematic given the subjectivity in the various decisions comprising the methodology;"
- "The legal provisions that concern the use of sampling for apportionment purposes, both in the Constitution and in Federal law, are variously interpreted;"
- "The inherent uncertainties of sampling/statistical

adjustment may undermine public confidence in the decennial census and reduce public participation."

Committee Democrats issued a dissenting opinion, citing separate studies published by the National Academy of Sciences and the American Statistical Association that show that sampling would reduce costs and increase accuracy. The Democrats said that sampling will help reduce the differential undercount of minorities, which reached record high levels in 1990.

Earlier this year the Bureau unveiled its plans for 2000, which include the use of two types of sampling, Sampling for Non-Response Follow-Up and Integrated Coverage Measurement. Combined, they seek to tally the hardest and most costly to reach 10 percent of the population after traditional mail and telephone methods have been exhausted. Sampling would also minimize the differential undercount of groups and other enumeration errors.

### House and Senate Both on Record

A report, also non-binding, accompanying the Senate version of the Fiscal Year 1997 spending bill for the Census Bureau, contains language prohibiting the expenditure of funds in FY 1997 for sampling research and design. Viewed collectively, the House and Senate reports show clear congressional opposition to the Bureau's plans. At several House hearings this year, Commerce Department and Census Bureau officials' attempts to explain the use statistical sampling were met with consternation.

### 2000 Census to Miss 5.5 Million, Bureau Says

Speaking at a September 26 meeting of the Census Advisory Committee, Bureau Director Martha Farnsworth Riche said that the absence of sampling would lead to approximately 5.5 million people missed in the 2000 census, and would increase its costs by \$400 million.

#### CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Executive Director: Howard J. Silver  
Public Affairs: Michael Buckley  
Government Affairs: Angela L. Sharpe  
Administrative Officer: Karen Carrion

President: Charles Schultze

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an advocacy organization for federal support for the social and behavioral sciences, was founded in 1981 and stands alone in Washington in representing the full range of social and behavioral scientists. *Update* is published 22 times per year. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$65; institutional subscriptions, \$130, overseas mail, \$130. 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.

## **WALKER DECLARES HIMSELF A SOCIAL SCIENTIST: LOOKS BACK ON HIS TENURE** HS

Speaking at a September 10 dinner sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the George Washington University, Rep. Robert Walker (R-PA) proclaimed "I am a social scientist myself." The Science Committee chairman, who will retire at the end of the 104th Congress after 20 years in the House, has a Master's degree in political science from the University of Delaware. He expects to teach public policy courses at colleges in his district, Franklin and Marshall and Millersville State University, and elsewhere.

Responding to a question from the audience, Walker noted that his attempts during the past two years to eliminate the Social, Behavioral and Economic Science Directorate at the National Science Foundation, stemmed from his belief that the social sciences should be integrated into the rest of NSF's structure. "They are not useful set off as a separate item in NSF," he declared. He did admit that these disciplines "have a lot to contribute to the overall science arena."

Most of Walker's remarks reviewed his tenure as chair of the House Science Committee. He is proud of his committee's attempt to address science in a more comprehensive way, similar to the way Congress handles defense matters. Walker also believes that a number of reports, including one authored by former National Academy of Sciences head Frank Press, validated his approach.

The most visible action of the comprehensive approach was to wrap many of the authorization bills under the committee's jurisdiction in one omnibus bill. The bill passed the House, but has not gone anywhere in the Senate. This situation Walker blamed on the lack of a separate Science committee in the Senate. He admonished the science community to fight for a separate committee in the Senate, where science plays second fiddle to commerce in the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. Walker also called rumors that the House Science Committee would not survive in the next Congress "nonsense." He fully expects the Republicans to maintain control of the Congress and that Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) would become the new head of the committee.

## **Chairman Proud of Priority Setting**

The outgoing chairman stressed the "broad discussion on the future of science" that occurred under his leadership. He noted that the committee developed priorities for government's role in supporting science, with basic research the key. Mission oriented research was a second priority, according to Walker. However, research that led to development of a product was not worthy of government support and should be the responsibility of the private sector. He admitted that these policy choices engendered much debate, but Walker emphasized that limited resources in the future would continue to force hard decisions about how much science the government could afford to support.

Walker acknowledged his support for a Department of Science was controversial. Yet, he still considered it a good idea, since integrating government science policy in one place would assure prioritization within science. It could also lead, he said, to a reshaping of the appropriations process where the NSF and NASA would not have to compete with Veterans and Housing as they do now.

As a member of the Speaker's Leadership group and as Vice Chair of the Budget Committee, Walker was proud that he could fight for science within the leadership's agenda. He told the audience that "science survives pretty well," in competition with other issues. He noted that one of the biggest parts of his job as chairman was to educate the other members of the committee. He appealed to the science community to not only focus on the committee in their education efforts, but on all members of Congress, who often have little understanding of science. Invite them to campus, meet with them in the district, show them the importance of science in everyday life, Walker urged. You have to convince them and the broader public as well, that "without a new knowledge base the new economy cannot succeed."

Since Walker had asked many witnesses before his committee what science would look like 15 to 20 years from now, he was asked what he thought Congress would be like in that same future time period. The chairman responded by suggesting that he expects Congress would no longer need a committee system. Proud of his role in bringing new technology to the House (the Committee has a web page where

you can download testimony), Walker thought that individual members would have instantaneous access to expertise. Therefore, the need for members to concentrate on a particular area and become an expert through a committee system would not be needed. Task forces focused on a specific topic would be utilized, a move that Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA) initiated in the 104th Congress, often bypassing established House committees. Walker also thought that the new technology would create "a more representative body."

### **TAKANISHI SHORT TERM REPLACEMENT AT WHITE HOUSE SCIENCE OFFICE** HS

Ruby Takanishi has replaced Joyce Justus as the Assistant Director for Social and Behavioral Sciences as the White House Office of Science and Technology. The former executive director of the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development from 1986 to 1996, Takanishi will be leaving the White House on December 1 to become the President of the Foundation for Child Development.

Prior to her position with Carnegie, she was Director of the Scientific Affairs Office of the American Psychological Association. Takanishi was also the founding executive director of the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences in 1982. She came to Washington as a Society for Child Development Congressional Fellow in 1980-81, after serving on the faculty at UCLA. Takanishi has a Ph.D. from Stanford, where she also received her B.A. She has an M.A. from the University of Michigan.

Justus has returned to the Office of the President of the University of California system in Oakland. She served for two years in OSTP.

### **SENATE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS NIH SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE** AS

In providing FY 1997 funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), issued report language highly favorable to fostering increased emphasis on the social and behavioral sciences. Since the larger overall House appropriation prevailed in the Omnibus bill (see earlier story), many of the recommendations mentioned below should be more easily implemented.

First, the committee noted that a recent National Academy of Sciences' report "recommended that NIH increase the number of scientists in behavioral science, nursing research, health services research, and oral health research." Therefore, it encouraged NIH to make a focused effort to train young scientists in these critical areas and to consider small grant programs to provide support for new investigators.

The Committee commended the **Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)** for establishing a research training task force. The OBSSR is encouraged to work with the NIH Institutes to develop small grants programs for young investigators, with the Committee citing the B/START (Behavioral Science Track Awards for Rapid Transition) as an example. The Committee noted that it believes "that funds for such programs should not be allocated from within existing behavioral science research funds." The OBSSR is applauded for its "leadership in promoting social and behavioral science research throughout NIH. In particular, the Committee recognized the OBSSR's support for the symposium on psychosocial treatments and interventions: social work's contribution to a trans-NIH research agenda, and the research initiative on violence against women and violence within the family. The initiative was praised as an "excellent example of a coordinated, trans-NIH initiative that allows for a comprehensive interdisciplinary research effort."

Unlike the House, the Senate committee recommended a specific (\$1.46 billion) appropriation for the **Office of AIDS Research (OAR)**. The

numbers cited below include funds the Senate expects will be transferred to the OAR.

The Committee allocated \$615.2 million in funding for the **National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)**. "The Committee commends NICHD for its support of research on behavioral and psychological development," noting three particular areas: biobehavioral research, learning disabilities and child care. NICHD is encouraged to "continue to place a high priority on behavioral research, particularly regarding elements of child care that enhances health development."

The Committee also praised NICHD on the "sustained excellence of its demographic research program," citing the Institute's contributions "to knowledge about the role of fathers in families, the effects of family change on children, the causes of spiraling out-of-wedlock childbearing, and the determinants and consequences of immigration." The Committee urged NICHD to "continue to give high priority to demographic research and data," noting that the "objective information derived from these studies and from innovative survey data supported by NICHD is essential to policy makers faced with hard choices about social policies and programs." The Committee further recognized NICHD for the "important discoveries" it has made in "identifying the causes of and best interventions for reading disabilities." The Committee lauded this research, and encourages its dissemination, including working with the Department of Education.

Noting that the "second decade of life is a period that is associated with the documented rise in psychosocial disorders over the past 50 years, including crime, alcohol and drug abuse, depression, anorexia and bulimia, and suicide," the Committee encourages the collaboration among the NICHD, National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH), National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), and other institutes on this research.

**The National Institute on Aging (NIA)** received from the Senate committee \$472.1 million in funding. The Committee, noting the "aging and retirement of the baby boom generation, when coupled with increasing life expectancy at older ages, will be transforming demographic and economic watershed

for this country," expects the NIA to continue its demographic research program and "to play a leadership role across the other federal agencies in preparing for the sweeping demographic transition of the aging baby boom." NIA studies, including the health and retirement study, access and health dynamics survey, and the national long-term care survey were also noted by the Committee as producing "important data for monitoring and understanding this demographic transformation including the impact on the Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare systems."

The Committee recommended \$58.0 million for the **National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**. NINR is commended by the Committee for its work on cognitive impairment and cited it as "a serious health problem urgently requiring increased research attention." The Committee noted its support for NINR's plans to increase its emphasis on brain research, "especially on preventing or delaying cognitive impairment, and on aiding family care givers as they cope with their relatives' maladies and their own changed life circumstances."

Noting that genetic screening for a variety of disorders is currently available, the Committee supported NINR's "plans for an aggressive research focus on genetic screening, including interventions to help individuals make decisions about participation in screening that include considerations of social, ethical, and financial consequences." NINR is strongly urged by the Committee to continue its "close collaboration with the National Center for Human Genome Research on these critical issues." NINR is further commended by the Committee for its efforts to combat pain and the Institute's commitment to "determining the relationship between regular physical activity and improved health and more independent injury free living for elderly persons."

**The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)** is provided \$206.3 million by the Committee. The Committee noted its interest in the Project MATCH, the Institute's clinical trial of patient-treatment matching and treatment effectiveness. NIAAA is asked to report the results of this trial during the FY 1998 budget hearings.

The Committee recommended \$474.1 for the **National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)**. "The Committee understands that behavioral research is

essential to solving the problems of drug abuse and addiction, and that behavioral and psychosocial interventions are the most frequently administered treatments for drug addiction and in some cases, are the only available treatment." The Committee was particularly interested in NIDA's behavioral therapies development program and commends the Institute's initiatives in "the fight against AIDS/HIV because of the increasing link between HIV infection and drug use and related behaviors." NIDA is encouraged to "continue to place high priority" on innovative community-based epidemiological and ethnographic research in relation to HIV transmission and prevention." NIDA is also commended for its support "for research on families and drug abuse, behavioral and psycho-social treatment research, and health services." The Committee applauds NIDA's initiation of the B/START program "to increase the supply of young investigators in behavioral science."

The Committee recommended \$683.4 million for the **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)**. The Committee complimented NIMH's newly appointed director, Steve Hyman, "in his efforts to scrutinize the Institute's research portfolio as part of his commitment to reconsider the Institute's priorities and overall direction." The Committee also noted its support for NIMH's "development of a behavioral science research plan aimed at reducing depression, schizophrenia, and other severe mood and anxiety disorders."

The Committee reiterated its support for the National Advisory Mental Health Council's report, *Basic Behavioral Science Research for Mental Health: A National Investment*. "In particular, the Committee supports recommendations to fund more investigator-initiated behavioral research, provide new funding mechanisms for longitudinal behavioral research, and expand study sections for the best possible review of behavioral science." Finally, the Committee "congratulated" NIMH for its research on the underlying causes of elderly suicide.

All of the above institutes were urged by the Committee to support an initiative such as B/START (behavioral science track awards for rapid transition), aimed at younger behavioral science researchers, and designed to ensure the future supply of "essential research personnel."

For the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, the Committee provided \$2.20 billion. The Committee commended CDC "for the Director's efforts to promote behavioral and social sciences research at CDC and for creating the position of Assistant Director for Behavioral and Social Sciences." The panel further noted that it "believes that such research is integral to the CDC mission." The Committee also cited the OBSSR at NIH as "effective in identifying new directions for research" and requested a status report from the CDC Director on the Centers' activities relating to behavioral and social sciences research.

A funding level of \$40.6 million is recommended for injury control efforts by the **National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC)**. Concurring with the House, the Committee recommended that "the CDC convene a study with the Institute of Medicine [IOM] on injury control and prevention." The Committee supported NCIPC's extramural research program, noting that "the Committee recommendation maintains the proviso included in the House bill prohibiting the use of funds to advocate or promote gun control."

For the **National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)** the Committee allocated \$86.0 million, including \$53.0 provided from the Public Health Service one percent evaluation funds. This includes an increase to conduct the NHANES (national health and nutrition examination survey).

The CDC is commended for its reorganization and the creation of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention by the Committee. \$106.3 million is recommended for **sexually transmitted disease prevention** and control. In addition, "The Committee expects the CDC to continue to strengthen the link between epidemiology/surveillance activities."

The Senate Committee appropriated \$143.6 million for the **Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR)**. The Committee noted its support for AHCPR's efforts to establish a children's health services research agenda. Resources permitting, the Committee encouraged AHCPR to "consider sponsoring a national conference on developing a national research agenda on quality, effectiveness, and outcomes measures in children's health care."

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**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT:  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH** *KC*

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.

**National Institute on Drug Abuse  
Survey Research on Drug Use and Associated Behaviors, P.A. 94-007**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is encouraging research on the epidemiology of drug use, including survey design and methodological issues as they relate to surveys of drug use. Specifically, this program announcement invites research applications in any of the following areas: (1) secondary analysis using state-of-the-art statistical methodologies and existing drug use research data bases to enhance our knowledge of the epidemiology of drug use, including prevalence, trends, patterns, incidence, risk and protective factors, natural history, consequences treatment, and co-morbidity factors of drug use; (2) research leading toward improved survey design methods for conducting surveys of drug use or estimating drug use outcomes from new surveys or existing databases; and (3) survey research of hard to enumerate or under served population groups (particularly those inadequately sampled in epidemiological surveys) such as the homeless, criminally-involved, and runaways.

**Application Procedure:** Applications are to be submitted on the grant application for PHS 398 (rev. 9/91) and will be accepted at the standard application deadlines as indicated in the application kit. Application kits are available at most institutional offices of sponsored research and may be obtained from the Office of Grants Information, Division of Research Grants, National Institutes of Health, Westwood Building, Room 449, Bethesda, MD 20892, telephone (301) 594-7248.

**Mechanism of Support:** Support mechanisms include research project grants, small grants, FIRST award. Because the nature and scope of the research proposed in response to this program announcement may vary, it is anticipated that the size of the award will also vary.

**Review Process:** The Division of Research Grants, NIH, serves as a central point for receipt of applications. Applications will be assigned in accordance with established Public Health Service referral guidelines and will be reviewed by an initial review group (IRG) for scientific and technical merit in accordance with the standard NIH peer review procedures. Following scientific-technical review, the applications will receive a second-level review by the appropriate national advisory council.

**Deadlines:** Since this is an ongoing program announcement the deadline dates are February 1, June 1, and October 1 for each year.

**Contacts:** For programmatic inquiries contact: Arthur Hughes or Andrea Kopstein, Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research, NIDA, Parklawn Building, Room 9A-53, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443-6637.

For information regarding fiscal issues contact: Gary Fleming, Grants Management Branch, NIDA, Parklawn Building, Room 8A-54, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443-6710.

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CONTRIBUTORS

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American Council of Learned Societies  
American Institutes for Research  
University of Arizona  
Bowling Green State University  
Brookings Institution  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
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Consortium of Social Science Associations

1522 K Street, N.W., Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005

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