

**1996 SPENDING FINALLY  
RESOLVED; NSF GETS BOOST** *MS*

Congress and the President finally reached an agreement on spending for FY 1996 almost 7 months after the fiscal year began. After passing a thirteenth stop-gap funding measure, the President finally signed the Omnibus Appropriations bill on April 25. It included funding for nine Departments and numerous independent federal agencies, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF). In reaching the compromise, the new Republican congressional majority can tout its \$23 billion reduction in discretionary spending from FY 1995 totals. The President can argue that his priorities in education, training, law enforcement and science and technology largely remained intact. After a long and arduous process that included government shutdowns and other disruptions for agencies, it's now on to the battles for FY 1997.

Below are summaries of final actions taken on agencies that fund social, behavioral and economic research.

As anticipated, the **National Science Foundation** received an additional \$40 million for its research and related activities account. Thus, NSF finishes FY 1996 with a total budget of \$3.22 billion, compared to \$3.27 billion in FY 1995. For the research account, Congress appropriated \$2.314 billion, slightly more than the \$2.281 billion in FY 1995.

The **Bureau of Labor Statistics** wound up with \$293.2 million in federal funds, a slight \$3.2 million decrease from last year. Research and Evaluation at the **Employment and Training Administration** lost \$3 million from FY 1995 and is left with \$6.2 for this year.

The final appropriation for the **Centers for Disease Control** was \$2.115 billion compared to \$2.083 billion in FY 1995. The **Agency for Health Care Policy and Research**, an early target of the new  
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**SCIENCE COMMITTEE PASSES  
NEW NSF BILL; ELIMINATION  
OF DIRECTORATE REMAINS** *MS*

On April 24, the House Science Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert Walker (R-PA), passed the Omnibus Science Authorization Act of 1996. Included in the bill was the FY 1997 authorization for the National Science Foundation (NSF). Although last year's Omnibus bill included a two-year authorization for NSF, the Chairman decided to revise the bill to reflect additional authorized levels of spending.

The bill, as it did last year, once again stipulates that NSF is limited to six Assistant Directors and calls for a report by November 15, 1996 indicating how NSF will reorganize to comply with this requirement. It also includes a new provision that authorized funds for NSF "shall be available to not more than 6 scientific directorates." (NSF currently has 7 directorates) During the debate, Rep. George Brown (D-CA), ranking Democrat on the Science Committee, accused Walker of intending to eliminate the Social, Behavioral and Economic Science Directorate (SBE) because he is ideologically opposed to its existence. Walker responded by denying that this was his intention, and that he leaves the decision as to which Directorate to eliminate to the Foundation. Last year, in report language to accompany the bill, the Committee made clear that SBE should be the prime  
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**INSIDE UPDATE...**

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## SENATE PANEL APPROVES BILL HINDERING RESEARCH INVOLVING MINORS *MS*

On April 18 the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved legislation that social science advocates say will severely hinder research involving minors. The bill now moves to the Senate floor.

The legislation, the Family Privacy and Protection Act (H.R. 1271), which would require prior written consent from a parent before a minor can participate in federally-sponsored research, was approved on a 7-5, party-line vote. A component of the GOP's *Contract with America*, it was approved by the full House, 418-7, on April 4 of last year. (for a detailed description of the bill, see *Update*, November 13, 1995)

The committee, chaired by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK), rejected, also along party lines, an alternative offered by the ranking Democrat on the panel, Sen. John Glenn (D-OH). In offering his substitute, Glenn said the bill as currently written was "broad in scope and vague," and could apply to classroom discussion as well as all research affecting children. Decrying it as "one size fits all" he noted the opposition of the Office of Management and Budget and the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services. Glenn's substitute paralleled current regulations protecting human subjects.

Chairman Stevens repeatedly noted that similar

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legislation, applying only to Education Department studies, was included in the Goals 2000 bill approved by the 103rd Congress. He urged the bill's swift passage without any amendments because of its "high priority" status in the House.

Speaking against H.R. 1271, Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) said it would have "a severe negative impact on children." Surveys, he said, are used to help children and the bill threatens the value of these studies. Levin spoke of the importance of parental notice, but commented that history shows that parents are often too busy and do not return written consent forms even when they have no objection to the research being conducted. "Informed consent must already be obtained," he said. Citing the Monitoring the Future study of youth drug use, Levin emphasized that for 22 years the study has helped Congress: "Twenty-two years of data, real world stuff." He said the bill would damage the integrity of research by skewing survey results and undermining the value of the research. Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND) urged the Committee to give the bill further consideration before voting, a notion rejected by Stevens.

Prior to the panel's consideration of the legislation, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala outlined the Administration's opposition in a letter to Stevens:

The Administration strongly supports parental involvement and parental consent in studies that include minors. However, there are various adequate forms of consent. Therefore, the bill should not be limited to a written consent requirement. The requirement that parental consent be in writing, and in advance, could seriously jeopardize the ability of these studies to provide Federal, State and local policy makers with useful and reliable information. Further, in programs such as those serving runaway youths, the requirement for written consent, prior or otherwise, may be logistically impossible to meet or may even be incompatible with the best interests of the children receiving services . . . It is therefore likely that the very children we most wish to help, for instance children at high risk of using drugs, will be those whose parents will lack the motivation to respond in writing . . .

## STATISTICAL CONSOLIDATION BILL GIVEN HEARING *MS*

Legislation seeking to merge the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics into a Federal Statistical Service was the subject of a March 22 hearing held by the House Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology. Authored by panel chair Rep. Steve Horn (R-CA), a political scientist, the bill, H.R. 2521, would also create a Federal Council on Statistical Policy.

Lynne Billard, a member of the COSSA Board of Directors and President of the American Statistical Association (ASA), testified on behalf of ASA. While not taking a definitive position on the bill, she used her presentation to highlight important issues for the committee to consider including: data quality and confidentiality, the need for independent data collection free from political influence, and coordination of federal statistical efforts.

Representatives of the Clinton Administration and leaders of several federal statistical agencies testified in opposition to the bill, saying that it is not needed and questioning the efficiencies and cost-savings touted by its proponents. They cited that data-sharing legislation, under consideration by the Office of Management and Budget, would be a better solution.

## COALITION BRINGS NSF RESEARCH TO CAPITOL HILL *MS*

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), a group of close to 80 scientific societies, professional associations, universities, and industrial representatives, held its second annual exhibition and reception on March 19 in the Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office Building. Attended by over a dozen members of Congress and hundreds of staff members, the exhibition provided almost 50 booths highlighting the results of National Science Foundation sponsored research. NSF Director Neal Lane and Deputy Director Anne Petersen took the time to view the exhibits and interact with the researchers and students who explained their research. CNSF's chair, COSSA Executive Director Howard J. Silver, declared the event "a tremendous success," that will be repeated next year.

The social and behavioral sciences were well represented at the exhibition. The American Political Science Association and the University of Michigan displayed the data available from the National Election Studies. The American Sociological Association did the same for the General Social Survey and the University of Michigan sponsored a booth featuring the results from the Panel Study on Income Dynamics. Thus, Members of Congress and their staffs could examine the data collection and opportunities for analysis from these three important NSF-funded social science data bases.

The American Psychological Association sponsored an exhibit featuring research testing a new theory of human movement useful for robot design, physical rehabilitation, and planning a safer workplace. APA joined with the Linguistic Society of America to demonstrate software to help navigate the Internet developed from research conducted by the Institute for Research in Cognitive Science at the University of Pennsylvania, an NSF-supported Science and Technology Center. Walt Wolfram of North Carolina State University displayed his research on the linguistic transformation of island communities on the outer banks of North Carolina and the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia and Maryland, also sponsored by the Linguistic Society. The Association of American Geographers presented George Mason University's geography department's "Bosnian Virtual Field Trip," in which Geographic Information System techniques were used to provide web site access to the conflict in this region.

## COSSA TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF JUSTICE RESEARCH AND STATISTICS *MS*

Felice J. Levine, Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association and a member of the COSSA Board of Directors, testified before a key House panel in support of the research and statistics program of the Justice Department.

In her April 17 testimony before the House Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Harold Rogers (R-KY), Levine advocated for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

Levine noted that while support for NIH's DNA and less-than-lethal technology programs has increased considerably in recent years, NIH funding for social science research has been stagnant. She urged a more balanced approach, one that better includes the insights of the social and behavioral sciences.

Levine praised BJS' important measurements of crime and justice, but said resources do not allow it to address the many statistical needs of our justice system. Without increased funding for BJS, we will continue to fail to provide the comprehensive data policy makers and practitioners need to meet their many challenges, she said.

For a copy of the testimony, contact COSSA at (202) 842-3525.

## HOUSE NSF REAUTHORIZATION

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candidate for NSF's compliance with the elimination provision. The report language for this year's bill is not yet available.

An amendment offered by Rep. Bud Cramer (D-AL), new Ranking Democrat on the Basic Research Subcommittee, to remove the provisions concerning the elimination of a directorate and to increase the amount authorized for NSF's Salaries and Expenses account, failed by a vote of 24-19. The vote was along party lines.

For FY 1997 the committee's bill authorizes \$3.250 billion. This compares to a final FY 1996 appropriation of \$3.220 billion, and the FY 1997 NSF budget request of \$3.325 billion. For Research and Related Activities the authorized level is \$2.340 billion, compared to a final FY 1996 level of \$2.314 billion, and a requested FY 1997 level of \$2.472 billion. For Education and Human Resources, the authorized level is \$600 million, a \$1 million increase of FY 1996 appropriations, and \$19 million below the request. The Committee also reduced the Salaries and Expenses line from the \$127.3 million in the FY 1996 appropriation to \$120 million. Unlike the President's budget, the authorization includes funding for the

Academic Research Infrastructure program; the same \$100 million in the FY 1996 appropriation.

A substitute offered by Brown brought the FY 1997 authorized spending numbers up to the President's request. The Committee spent much time debating budgets past FY 1997. The Republicans argued that although the President's budget for FY 1997 includes a greater increase than their authorization, the following years will bring sharp decreases. Brown's substitute amendment also would have removed the limitations on the number of directorates. It lost on a strict party line vote, 27-21.

### Name Change Succeeds

Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX), as he did last year, offered an amendment to change the name of the Foundation to the National Science and *Engineering* Foundation and to also add engineering to the name of the National Science Board. The amendment carried by a vote of 23-22. Fourteen of twenty-five Republicans voted for the name change, while the Democrats split 9 for and 11 against. Chairman Walker voted no, while Ranking Democrat Brown voted yes.

The Chairman announced that he expects the full House to take up the bill on May 9. Last year, the House passed the Omnibus bill, which besides NSF, includes authorization levels for EPA science, NASA, the National Institute on Standards and Technology, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the Fire Administration, and other agencies. However, the Senate did not take up the bill. The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS), has first jurisdiction regarding the NSF bill. The Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Larry Pressler (R-SD), has secondary jurisdiction. Pressler would like an NSF bill; Kassebaum is somewhat unclear, given an already crowded legislative agenda.

It is important to remember that authorization bills only set recommended levels for spending. The appropriators set actual spending amounts for the agencies. As we have seen, the lack of an authorization bill does not stop the appropriators, nor do they often find themselves constrained by what the authorizers recommend.

## 1996 FUNDING COMPLETED

*(continued from page one)*

GOP majority, finished with \$125.3 million (\$60.1 million from the 1 percent evaluation set-aside in the Public Health Service budget). The total is about \$10 million less than last year. **Policy Research** in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation lost \$400,000 from last year's budget, which included a rescission, and ended up with \$9 million for FY 1996. The conferees did not revive the Child Welfare or Social Services research programs at the **Administration for Children and Families**. They did provide \$2.8 million for research, training and special projects, down from \$25.6 million, at the **Administration on Aging**.

The **National Institute of Health's Office of AIDS Research** within the Office of the Director received \$26.6 million for its activities. Unlike in previous years, Congress voted not to transfer funds from the individual institutes to the OAR. Congress did include report language suggesting this was not to be a precedent for FY 1997 appropriations and reminded the director that he had a 3 percent transfer authority. Congress also encouraged the Director "to ensure that AIDS research supported by NIH is carried out in accordance with the AIDS research plan."

At the Justice Department, the **National Institute of Justice** received \$30 million, an increase of \$4 million over FY 1995 that is slated for NIJ's less-than-lethal technology programs. The **Bureau of Justice Statistics** will receive \$21.4 million, the same as FY 1995. The **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's** final appropriation was \$144 million.

These three agencies are likely to receive additional funding for FY 1996 and beyond as the result of provisions, similar to those initiated by COSSA, in the bill's Local Law Enforcement Block Grants. Under the act, up to three percent of the grants (\$503 million in FY 1996) can be given to the Attorney General for research, evaluation, and data collection activities, as well as administrative costs, relating to programs supported by the block grants. It is unclear how much money will go toward research and data efforts.

For the **Office of Educational Research and Improvement**, Congress provided \$106.6 million for research. Of that total, \$56.6 million, an increase of \$10 million, is for the five research institutes, the national research and development centers, field-initiated studies, and the ERIC clearinghouse system. The 10 regional laboratories that provide dissemination and technical assistance to education practitioners and policymakers will receive \$51 million, also up \$10 million from last year. The National Center for Education Statistics finished with \$46.2 million compared to \$48.2 million in FY 1995. Assessment wound up with \$32.6 million, a slight decrease from last year's \$32.8 million. The National Diffusion Network program was abolished. Congress provided a large \$26.6 million increase to \$48 million for Technology for Education programs, an administration priority.

The programs assisting **Graduate Students** were hit hard. Following the request of the administration, Congress eliminated the Patricia Roberts Harris Fellowship program and the Legal Training for the Disadvantaged program. Faculty Development fellowships, which the administration supported, also received no FY 1996 funding. The Javits Fellowship program survived at \$5.9 million, enough for continuation awards, but not enough for a new class of fellows. The Law School Clinical Program received \$5.5 million to complete current awards and then it too will disappear. The Graduate Assistance in areas of National Need remains the major program, funded at \$27.3 million.

Congress reduced slightly programs in **International Education and Foreign Language Studies**. For FY 1996, domestic programs receive \$50.5 million, overseas programs \$4.8 million and the Institute for International Public Policy, \$920,000. The **Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education** received \$15 million, down from \$17.5 million in FY 1995.

Congress provided \$133.8 million for the **Census Bureau's** salaries and expenses line, and \$150.3 million for the periodic censuses account. The first is slightly below last year's level. The latter is considerably below the request as the Bureau moves toward taking the 2000 Census. The **Bureau of Economic Analysis** finished with \$45.9 million, a slight decrease from last year.

The final appropriation for the United States Information Agency's Educational and Cultural Affairs programs was \$200 million, down \$38 million from FY 1995. The National Endowment for the Humanities wound up with \$110 million and the United States Institute of Peace received \$11.5 million, the same as last year.

## **FOSTERING RESILIENCY IN KIDS: OVERCOMING ADVERSITY**

MB

A March 29 COSSA breakfast seminar, *Fostering Resiliency in Kids: Overcoming Adversity*, brought three leading social scientists to Capitol Hill to discuss their research findings before an audience of 60 congressional and federal agency staff and others.

Emmy E. Werner, Research Professor in Child Development at the University of California, Davis, summarized the findings of a 40-year study that followed a multi-ethnic cohort born in 1955 on the island of Kauai in Hawaii. The subjects generally faced multiple biological and social and economic risk factors. Two-thirds of this group developed criminal or mental health problems, but she said that what surprised her was that one-third did not, despite the adversity. According to Werner, those in that one-third were characterized by: an affectionate, outgoing temperament, a recruiting of others in the community to help them move forward, good reading skills, and qualities and activities "that brought them solace in life" and friends and self-esteem. They were also affected by protective factors and interventions, such as: sibling spacing that provides for a period of greater attention, an extended family providing positive guidance, the opportunities to care for other family members in need, and teachers and others in the community serving as mentors.

Of the group that developed problems, Werner said that nearly all stabilized over time. Over ninety percent of school dropouts later achieved a high school diploma or GED. Teenage mothers ended up with a similar amount of children as those whose child-rearing started later. According to Werner, the policy implication of these findings is that "the dire predictions about the fate of delinquents and teenage mothers simply are not true." Werner concluded by calling for greater research and evaluation on

programs that foster resiliency and policies that provide effective intervention and prevention program for at-risk-youth.

## **Unraveling Contexts Important**

Suzanne M. Randolph, Associate Professor in the Department of Family Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, discussed the challenges facing research and evaluation on resiliency. Randolph based her remarks on her experience coordinating a Howard University study that followed 100 full-term and pre-term African-American infants and their families from birth to age three. She said that when examining risk and protective factors, one finds they often are "inextricably tied to mothers." The challenge for researchers, she said, is to unravel the contexts in which these factors exist. With large contextual variables, such as poverty, it is difficult to single out a particular adverse circumstance.

For many African-American families, Randolph said, a protective factor is attributing their adversity to institutional racism. Mothers who perceive that their situation results from racism have higher psychological well-being and are better off than those who blames themselves, she said. Randolph commented that institutional racism should be more strongly considered in research and evaluation on resiliency. She said that religiosity among African-American families is also a strong factor, but that the context should be more broadly defined to encompass a broader range of activities. Another research challenge she cited was the child's temperament, which she said is a "tricky kind of research problem" because it is significantly affected by a mother's perception of the child. Similarly, a mother's expectations for child development affect both her own assessment and treatment of the child, but also the child's risk for injury. Randolph concluded by calling for research and evaluation that more greatly encompasses cultural and community variances.

Ann S. Masten, Associate Professor of Child Psychology and Associate Director of the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota, highlighted the findings of three major resiliency projects she has conducted: Project Competence, which followed 205 ordinary urban school children; homeless children; and Cambodian-American youth who survived the Pol Pot regime and now live in

Minnesota. From these studies, she has concluded that "In most cases, it takes more than adversity to bring down a child endowed with normal human qualities. It seems to require significant failures in the basic protective systems of human development, the nurturing of body and soul by adults, opportunities to learn, to play, to be safe." Masten's studies have shown that the resilient have "a knack for getting into healthy contexts for development" and have made positive choices in their lives.

#### Need for Combined Strategies

Masten said that her research implicates three intervention strategies: risk prevention or reduction, asset enhancement strategies for families, schools, and communities, and facilitating protective systems. As high-risk youth have many risk factors, these

strategies need to be combined, she said. Yet, no single or combined strategy is best for all situations or all children, she added. A challenge for the future, she said, is to see if deliberate protective efforts can turn young lives around. Masten concluded by saying, "the great danger I see in the idea of resilience is in expecting children to overcome the deprivation and danger on their own...we cannot stand by as the infrastructure for child development collapses in this nation, expecting miracles."

A lively question and answer period followed, discussing issues such as the mixture of natural endowments and environmental factors, federal support for resiliency research, and measuring outcomes of resiliency programs. COSSA will publish a full transcript of the event this Summer. To obtain a copy, call (202) 842-3525.

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### **SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY** *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.

#### Office of Research and Development

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announce their intent to support a special awards competition in Fiscal Year 1996. This NSF-EPA competition has been developed based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed on December 8, 1994 which establishes a partnership between the two agencies emphasizing the support and merit review of fundamental, extramural environmental research. As EPA's Office of Research and Development expands its extramural grants program in FY 1996, NSF is providing assistance and consultation. This is the second year of the joint special awards competition. The area targeted by this Announcement of Opportunity is: Decision Making and Valuation for Environmental Policy.

**Budget:** Awards made through this competition are dependent upon responsiveness of the proposals to the announcement, the quality of the proposed research, and the availability of funds. Approximately \$2.5 million for Decision Making and Valuation for Environmental Policy, with a projected award range from \$60,000 to \$250,000 per award per year, and an approximate duration of 2 to 3 years.

**Deadlines:** Proposals in response to this announcement must be received by May 7, 1996. It is anticipated that awards will be made by Fall 1996.

**Contact:** Further information, if needed, may be obtain from the following persons: Dr. Robin Cantor, [rcantor@nsf.gov](mailto:rcantor@nsf.gov), (703) 306-1757; or Mr. Gregory C. Ondich, [ondich.greg@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:ondich.greg@epamail.epa.gov), (202) 260-5753, fax: (202) 260-4524.

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