

SENATORS, SCIENCE GROUPS CALL FOR DOUBLING RESEARCH BUDGET *KS*

Senators Phil Gramm (R-TX) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) have introduced legislation, the National Research Investment Act, (S. 1305), calling for a doubling of the federal government's investment in civilian research over the next ten years. The Senators joined representatives from the science community, who have also endorsed this concept in their statement "A Decade of Investment," at a press conference on October 22 to press the case. Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM), Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, also appeared to add his sponsorship to the new legislation.

In support of the bill, Gramm noted that the amount spent on non-defense research by the federal government has declined from 5.7 percent of the federal budget in 1965 to 1.9 percent today. He declared it was time "to restore the high priority once accorded to science in the federal budget." Lieberman declared "If you believe, as I do, that our current prosperity, leadership in science, advances in medicine, and the growth of entire new industries are directly linked to investments made thirty years ago, then you have got to ask where will this country be 30 years from now with this incredibly poor investment rate we have today." He cited Nobel Prize winning economist Robert Solow whose research demonstrates that at least half of U.S. economic growth since the end of World War II came from scientific and technological innovation.

The bill calls for doubling, around a 7.2 percent increase per year for the next ten years, of the research budgets of twelve agencies: National Science Foundation, National Aeronautic and Space Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Institute of Standards and

(continued on page 4)

HOUSE SCIENCE COMMITTEE LAUNCHES SCIENCE POLICY STUDY *KS*

With strong support from House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA), the House Science Committee, on October 23, kicked off, a year-long effort to address the long-range issues of national science policy. Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) has selected Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI) to lead the study. Ehlers holds a Ph.D. in Physics and taught that subject for many years at Calvin College in Michigan.

Sensenbrenner noted that it has been twelve years since Congress comprehensively reviewed the long-term future of science and technology policy. The previous study, under then Chairman Don Fuqua (D-FL), involved many hearings and produced a series of documents, but the final report did not make much of a stir. The need for a new study, according to Sensenbrenner, arises from changed circumstances. These include: the end of the Cold War; an era of declining, rather than increasing science budgets; the

INSIDE UPDATE

- Eight Spending Bills Still Unsigned
- New NSF Science & Technology Centers Solicitation Available
- Key Chairman Supports Large Increase for NIH in FY 1999
- Cancer Institute to Focus More on Behavioral Links
- Sources of Research Support

globalization of the economy; and the growth of the Internet that has produced an information and communications revolution. The Chairman hopes the report will "develop a new sensible, coherent long-range science and technology policy, including a review of our nation's science and math education programs." He commended the Gramm-Lieberman effort (see other story), but urged caution in light of the need to maintain fiscal responsibility.

Ehlers stressed his desire to make the report, due at the end of next year, "concise, coherent and comprehensive." He, like many others, seeks to produce a document that will replace and have the impact of Vannevar Bush's 1945 report: *Science: The Endless Frontier*, which led to the establishment of the National Science Foundation, and set the parameters of science policy discussions for the next 45 to 50 years. Ehlers hopes the report will be adopted by the Congress in a concurrent resolution and will have an impact on White House science policy makers.

The Committee began the study by inviting 30 prominent scientists and science policy makers, representatives of the Executive Branch, and several members of the Science Committee, to participate in a roundtable discussion. The public will be able to view a summary of the discussion and documents related to the study at a Website established by the

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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

President:	Eleanor Maccoby
------------	-----------------

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 sciences. *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.

Committee: www.house.gov/science/welcome.htm.

Members of the public can submit letters and papers to the Science Policy Study for consideration. In addition, the future Study agenda includes field briefings and hearings which will be held in the Spring of 1998.

Gingrich Seeks Vision

The Speaker, in brief remarks at a luncheon sponsored by the Council on Competitiveness that accompanied the study kickoff, used the visions, strategies, projects, tactics model, he derived from the writings of Peter Drucker and Edward Deming, to address where the study should go. The key, Gingrich said, was to develop "a mission large enough to mobilize a nation." As part of his plan to use the coming budget surplus, he would spend one-third of it on "modernizing" science, transportation and defense. We must continue to "lead the planet" in science and technology, he declared.

The Speaker suggested that science must take a Santa Fe Institute approach, he cited E.O. Wilson's notion of "conciliance," and expand the knowledge base across a broad range of disciplines interacting together. Science's goal should be to connect the information and communications revolution to the world market situation. At the same time, he asserted, scientists must translate to the American public the meaning of all the new discoveries, so that it will understand and support continuing scientific efforts. Gingrich also declared that developing real-time data capability for the average American citizen should be another vision for science. He acknowledged that we must pursue trying to understand human relationships and to recognize that we work in a world wide science system.

EIGHT SPENDING BILLS UNSIGNED; TEMPORARY BILL FUNDS AGENCIES UNTIL NOVEMBER 7

With Congress still working on five appropriations bills and three others still unsigned by the President, a second Continuing Resolution was necessary to keep the agencies included in those bills operating. The second CR runs out on November 7, which Congress has targeted for its adjournment.

Four bills face a presidential veto threat. The Commerce, Justice, State funding legislation includes a House provision, strongly opposed by the White House, banning sampling in the 2000 Census. The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill contains a House-sponsored provision prohibiting spending on voluntary national testing, a key component of the President's education reform initiative. The Foreign Operations spending bill includes a House sponsored ban on giving U.S. funds to international agencies that fund or perform abortions. The District of Columbia appropriations bill has a provision providing vouchers that could be used for private schools, an idea the administration fears will lead to further deterioration of support for public schools.

The Agriculture and Rural Development funding legislation has become stalled over the Senate's desire to finish reforming the Food and Drug Administration before giving the go-ahead on the bill that includes its funding. Meanwhile, House and Senate conferees have reached agreement on the Interior bill, that includes \$110 million in FY 1998 funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The VA, HUD, IA bill, that includes the 5 percent increase for the National Science Foundation, awaits the president's signature. The same is true for Transportation funding.

The President has signed five bills — Energy & Water Development, Legislative Branch, Military Construction, Defense, and Treasury/Postal Service. He has also used his new line-item veto power on these bills. Congress is now contemplating trying to reverse some of those vetoes.

NEW NSF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTERS SOLICITATION AVAILABLE

The National Science Foundation has made available its solicitation for a new Science and Technology Centers (STC) competition. The solicitation can be found on the web at <http://www.nsf.gov/od/osti/centers/stc.htm>.

The Centers program began in 1987 to fund important basic research and education activities and to encourage technology transfer and innovative approaches to interdisciplinary research. The program offered the basic research community a significant mechanism to take a longer term view of science and to explore better and more efficient ways to educate students. Two competitions led to the establishment of 25 STCs. Currently there are 24 Centers whose funding will run out in the next few years.

After two major evaluations of the program, the National Science Board voted to conduct a new competition. The new Science and Technology Centers: Integrative Partnerships program will fund large scale projects that will support frontier investigations at the interfaces of disciplines, and/or fresh approaches within disciplines. The Centers will also "engage the Nation's intellectual talent, robustly drawn from its full human diversity, in the conduct of research and education activities." The program will promote organizational linkages within and between campuses and "the world beyond." Other objectives are to focus on integrative learning and discovery and the preparation of U.S. students for a broad set of career paths, and to foster science and engineering in service to society.

The Centers provide long-term stable funding of between \$1.5 and \$4 million per year. There will be an initial commitment of five years, and a potential duration of ten years. A major evaluation of each Center's achievements and future plans will occur after the fourth year of funding.

Applicants will compete for support in a two-stage process. First, applicants must submit a preproposal that outlines the planned Center activity. These preproposals will undergo merit review. Those deemed worthy will be invited to submit a full proposal. NSF will conduct site visits for a small number of proposers who enter the final consideration process. NSF expects to make about 8 to 10 awards in FY 2000. Preproposals must be submitted using NSF's electronic submission process FASTLANE and are due on **February 12, 1998**. A paper copy must arrive at NSF no later than February 19, 1998. NSF expects to notify principal investigators of the results of the preproposal review on or before May 1, 1998.

Full proposals are due electronically by September 3, 1998 and paper copies one week later. NSF expects to announce the results of the competition no later than August 1999.

Research teams intending to submit a preproposal should submit a notice of intent addressed to the STC program via e-mail to stc@nsf.gov by January 6, 1998. This will help NSF determine the composition of its review panels.

GRAMM-LIEBERMAN DOUBLING BILL

(continued from page 1)

Technology, National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Energy (non-defense related), Department of Veteran Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Smithsonian Institution. Gramm stressed that all new funding should be awarded on a merit review basis. The Congressional Research Service estimates that funding would increase from the current \$34 billion to \$68 billion in fiscal year 2008. Gramm hopes the bill will pass the Senate next year.

Other Senators, such as Connie Mack (R-FL), have called for doubling the NIH budget within five years. At the press conference, Domenici expressed his belief that five years was too short a time to double any agency's spending and remain within the constraints set by the balanced budget agreement.

At the press conference, a unified statement on research was also unveiled. Titled "A Decade of Investment," 106 scientific societies (including COSSA), called on Congress and the Administration "to double the current level of federal investment in research within the next ten years, starting in fiscal year 1999." Differing somewhat from the Gramm-Lieberman approach, the statement included defense, transportation and interior research as producing "scientific and technological innovations," although it did not offer specifics as to which agencies should have their budgets increased.

Brown Seeks Investment Budget

Although the Gramm-Lieberman bill does not have a House counterpart yet, Rep. George Brown (D-CA), Ranking Democrat on the House Science Committee, has reintroduced his idea of an investment budget. Buoyed by the talk of reduced deficits that may produce a budget surplus sooner than expected, and projections indicating a 15.7 percent reduction in real terms in federal r&d spending, Brown would like to change the way budgets are discussed.

Earlier in the year, he brought to the House floor the idea of carving out a piece of the federal budget that would be labeled investment. Although it did not garner many votes during enactment of the FY 1998 budget resolution, Brown continues to persist in trying to convince his colleagues to examine federal spending in a new manner.

In the Brown investment budget, spending on research and development would be increased by roughly \$35 billion over the next five years in order to provide for a roughly 5 percent annual growth rate that can keep pace with Gross Domestic Product. Brown would also increase spending for physical capital spending investments such as transportation. He would lock in spending for education and training at the levels agreed to in the budget agreement, which provides increases for these areas. Brown also wants to distinguish between consumption and investment within the federal unified budget.

KEY CHAIRMAN SEEKS LARGE INCREASE FOR NIH IN FY 1999

AS

Rep. John Porter (R-IL), Chair of the House Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, recently expressed his support for a \$3 billion increase — more than 20 percent — for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 1999.

Porter, speaking before the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding's Annual Membership Meeting, also communicated his support for current efforts to double NIH's funding over the next five years. "We have to move more in the direction of really increasing biomedical research," he said.

Porter said that the group would find the results from the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations conference committee "good." The conferees were doing their best to support a high percentage increase for NIH in a bill that "contains many high priority programs for people at risk in our society," the Chairman said. He also said he was "pleased" to see Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) "put the NIH at a high priority." Specter is the chairman of the corresponding Senate Appropriations Subcommittee.

This Congress has to "make a commitment to all research," he said. There is a need to "begin a serious effort to map out a strategy, starting with the budget committee. . . . It can be done," he continued. Porter noted that groups supporting increased science funding would need to stand against the mind set, held by some members of Congress, that no additional spending can be tolerated. He emphasized that the House, like the Senate, would have to "move with resolve, . . . and not set one priority against the other."

When asked if there was any truth to the rumor that Rep. George Nethercutt (R-WA) will chair a House Task Force on NIH, Porter indicated that he had indeed spoken with Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA) regarding the matter, but could not provide any further details at this time.

Nethercutt's Office Confirms Talks

Nethercutt's press office confirmed that talks between Gingrich and Nethercutt have taken place regarding Nethercutt's taking a comprehensive look at the NIH, including how the agency prioritizes research. According to a spokesperson, right now, it is not clear what form this comprehensive look would be -- a task force, commission, etc -- "nothing has been formalized." Meetings between Gingrich and Nethercutt to finalize things are expected over the course of the next week or so, he said.

CANCER INSTITUTE TO FOCUS MORE ON BEHAVIORAL LINKS AS

"Behavior change strategies should be a fundamental component of a National Cancer Institute (NCI) program in primary cancer prevention and early detection," says the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Cancer Prevention Program Review Group in *The Report of the Cancer Prevention Working Group* under the auspices of the NCI's Board of Scientific Advisors. "Behavioral research must become part of the fabric of NCI and larger scientific community if substantial advances are to be made in cancer prevention," the report says.

The Review Group emphasizes its strong belief "that prevention must be a principal component of the National Cancer Program if the cancer burden is to be reduced." The Group also stresses that "a partnership with the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research is important in developing a behavioral research plan consistent with the NIH strategy." More "active collaborations" with the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Heart Lung Blood Institute and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are also encouraged.

Chapter 6 of the report looks at *Behavioral Research and Behavioral Intervention Trials in Cancer Prevention*. The Review Group notes that "there is strong evidence for a role of behavioral factors (alone or in combination with other risk factors) in determining cancer and incidence and mortality." The report notes that studies using death certificate data "to analyze causes of death in the United States for 1990 concluded that at least 50 percent of mortality could be attributed to external, non-genetic factors, most important, behavior." These behaviors include use of tobacco, improper diet, overuse of alcohol, exposure to sunlight and "failure to take precautions to reduce exposure to occupational/ environmental hazards."

"Behavioral science methods are critical both for primary and secondary cancer prevention" notes the Review Group. The report acknowledges that "efforts to modify cancer-related behaviors have contributed to a reduction in the total cancer burden." Additionally, the Review Group highlights that "[behavioral] research has also made major contributions to the knowledge of individual and treatment-related variables

that affect quality of life in persons with cancer. This knowledge has been translated into effective psychosocial and behavioral interventions to reduce cancer pain, enhance quality of life, and in some cases, prolong survival.”

Important Needs Remain

The Review Group emphasizes that despite the success of behavioral research, important needs for behavioral research in cancer prevention remain. “The NCI prevention program should be a leader in behavioral research intervention, and should provide intellectual leadership in this critical area.”

Nine components, notes the Review Group, should be included in a “vital, innovative, outstanding behavioral research program.” Epidemiologic foundations; expertise in measurement and evaluation; access to national data on key behaviors; knowledge of theories of behavior; understanding of behavior and behavior change; expertise in cancer risk communication; strength in intervention design; expertise in economics and cost-effectiveness; and mechanisms for dissemination.

The Review group underscores that training should “encourage multidisciplinary collaborations between behavioral scientists and basic and clinical researchers.” The development of innovative programs is also encouraged.

The level of the NIH’s and NCI’s investment in behavioral research is “inconsistent with the important role of health behavior in the major causes of mortality.” The review noted that currently “only about 4.5 percent of the NIH budget and 5 percent of the NCI budget is spent on behavioral research.”

Recommendations

- Incorporate behavioral research as an integrated but independent component of the NCI prevention program.
- Conduct behavioral research at multiple levels, ranging from laboratory-based behavioral research to small scale hypothesis testing research to larger studies with the power to assess efficacy.

- Pay special attention to the development of interventions that are ethnically and culturally appropriate.
- Include as priorities for behavioral research a focus on prevention tobacco use in children and teenagers, encouragement of cessation among heavy smokers and women, increasing use of recommended early detection tests, and improvement of the behavioral outcomes of genetic testing for cancer susceptibility.
- Include the above nine components within an outstanding behavioral research program in prevention.
- Conduct behavioral research initiatives through mechanisms which crosscut NCI as well as the National Institutes of health, depending on the focus of effort.
- Create training programs for behavioral scientists to function in the new scientific paradigms, including genetics, chemoprevention, diet/nutrition, addiction and other pertinent areas.

Chapter 7, *Training of Health Professionals With Expertise in Prevention Research*, highlights the need for a “major new approach to the training of prevention scientists.” The Review Group “unequivocally supports” a comprehensive review of the current training mechanisms and the development of new modalities.

In Chapter 8, *Organization and Infrastructure of the NCI Prevention Division*, the Review Group recommends “that a vigorous, scientifically based, effective Behavioral Research Program be developed within the Prevention division (or within NCI), which would provide the required leadership in this most important area and which would be responsible for the fostering interactions between the internal and external scientific communities.” (See *Update*, September 15, 1997).

An expansion of the current NCI Board of Scientific Advisors (BSA) to include additional prevention research investigators and form a subcommittee of BSA, supplemented by other extramural experts, as an advisory group specific to the prevention division is also recommended.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT *YC*

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.

Department of Education Bilingual Education: Graduate Fellowship Program

Provides fellowships, through institutions of higher education, to individuals who are engaged in masters and doctoral study related to instruction of limited English proficient children and youth. The **deadline** for the transmittal of applications is **December 5, 1997**. For further information contact Joyce M. Brown, (202) 205-9727 or visit the Department of Education Web Site at

<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm> or
<http://www.ed.gov/news.html>.

★★★★★★

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Reproductive Sciences Branch

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) through the Reproductive Sciences Branch in the Center for Population Research provides funding for a limited number of research centers in the reproductive sciences. These centers provide an arena for multidisciplinary interactions among basic and clinical scientists interested in establishing high quality research programs in the reproductive sciences. A **letter of intent** must be received by **January 14, 1998** with the **final application due April 28, 1998**. For further information contact (301) 402-2221 or the NIH GOPHER at gopher.nih.gov and the NIH Website <http://www.nih.gov>.

Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement - Visiting Scholars Fellowship Program

The OERI Visiting Scholars Fellowship Program allows individuals engaged in educational research to work at one of 5 OERI national research institutes in Washington, DC for up to 18 months. For further information contact Delores Banks (202) 334-2872 or visit the Department of Education Websites at

<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm> or
<http://www.ed.gov/news.html>.

★★★★★★

United States Information Agency College and University Affiliations Program

The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program to support democratic institution building, civic education, free trade and market economics, and the environment and sustainable development. For further information contact the Office of Academic Programs, College and University Affiliations Program at (202) 619-5289 or email: affiliat@usia.gov to request Solicitation Package. **Deadline** for proposals is **January 16, 1998**.

MEMBERS

American Anthropological Association
American Economic Association
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association

American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Geographers

Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Society for Research in Child Development

AFFILIATES

AACSB - The International Association for Management
Education
American Agricultural Economics Association
American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Council on Consumer Interests
American Educational Research Association
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Public Policy
Analysis and Management
Association of Research Libraries
Eastern Sociological Society

History of Science Society
International Studies Association
Institute For Operations Research
and the Management Sciences
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs
and Administration
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
North Central Sociological Association
Population Association of America

Rural Sociological Society
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for the Advancement of
Socio-Economics
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
Sociologists for Women in Society
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association
Urban Affairs Association

CONTRIBUTORS

American Council of Learned Societies
American Institutes for Research
University of Arizona
Bowling Green State University
Brookings Institution
Brown University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
Carnegie-Mellon University
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
University of Chicago
Clark University
University of Colorado
Columbia University
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Cornell University
Duke University
Emory University
University of Georgia

Harvard University
University of Illinois
Indiana University
Institute for Social Research, University of
Michigan
Institute for the Advancement of
Social Work Research
Institute for Women's Policy Research
University of Iowa
Johns Hopkins University
Kansas State University
University of Maryland
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public
Affairs, Syracuse University
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota
National Bureau of Economic Research
National Opinion Research Center
New York University

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Social Science Research Council
Stanford University
State University of New York, Binghamton
State University of New York, Stony Brook
University of Tennessee
University of Texas, Austin
Texas A & M University
Tulane University
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Yale University

Consortium of Social Science Associations

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