

CONGRESS SEEKS TO END SESSION; FY 1999 SPENDING STILL UNDER DISCUSSION *KS*

After voting to inquire as to whether Bill Clinton should be impeached, the House of Representatives sought agreements with the Senate and the White House on FY 1999 spending bills, so that they and their Senate colleagues could return home and campaign for re-election. A Continuing Resolution that has kept the government funded for the first nine days of the new fiscal year, runs out on October 9. All day negotiations are taking place to avoid another government shutdown. The options are passing another short-term CR and continuing the session into next week, passing a longer-term CR through the election and then returning for a lame-duck session, or passing a long-term CR (6 months to a full year) and going home. In addition, a supplemental bill to fund disaster relief, Bosnian operations and other "emergencies" needs working out.

As of this writing on October 9, two appropriation bills have been signed into law. The Agriculture bill has already been vetoed by the President (see p. 3). Three have been sent to the President, including the VA, HUD, Independent Agencies, which includes funding for the National Science Foundation (see next story). That leaves seven others in various stages of the process. Three appear to have no chance of enactment as stand-alone bills: Labor-HHS-Education, which includes NIH and has not made it through the floor of either House; Commerce-State-Justice, which is mired down in the dispute over sampling on the Census; and Interior, which includes NEH funding, but has too many riders deemed anti-environment by the administration. The others: District of Columbia, Treasury-Postal, Transportation, and Foreign Operations could pass given enough time, as compromises seem to have been reached on their many controversial provisions.

Time is not on their side and so another Continuing Resolution and perhaps, another showdown between an embattled White House and an

anxious Congress awaiting the voters' judgments a month down the road, is imminent.

NSF APPROPRIATIONS: NINE PERCENT INCREASE FOR RESEARCH *KS*

Congress has accepted the conference report on the FY 1999 VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations bill. The President is expected to sign it. The legislation includes the FY 1999 funding level for the National Science Foundation.

Congress approved a total of \$3.672 billion for NSF for the fiscal year that began on October 1, 1998. This is a \$243 million or 7.1 percent increase over FY 1998, but \$101 million below the President's request. The President's budget predicated its increases for many science agencies on anticipated revenues from a tobacco settlement that did not occur.

For Research and Related Activities, the conferees split the difference between the House and Senate versions of the bill and provided \$2.77 billion for FY 1999. This is \$224 million or 8.8 percent above last year's appropriated level, but \$77 million below the President's request. The conferees expect the Foundation "to spread this increase across all research directorates in a proportional manner consistent with the budget proposal." The

Inside UPDATE...

- President Vetoes Agriculture Appropriations
- Higher Education Reauthorization Enacted
- NIH Examines Social and Behavioral Science Peer Review Study Sections
- President Clinton Announces Nominee to Head Transportation Statistics Agency
- Sources of Research Support

Conference report also notes the provision of an extra \$10 million, for a total of \$50 million, for a comprehensive research initiative on plant genomes within the "overall research program funded in this account." Senate VA, HUD, IA Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Sen. Kit Bond (R-MO) has indicated a strong interest in this initiative.

The conferees rejected Senate report language providing for three new research centers for applied molecular biology and three new centers under the Knowledge and Distributed Intelligence (KDI) program, and that would have limited competition for these centers to those universities not in the top 100 in receipt of Federal research funds. Instead, the conference report asks NSF to recognize that "support for doctoral I and doctoral II institutions (as classified by the Carnegie Foundation) is critical if the nation is to fully develop its human resources with respect to science and engineering research." The conferees set a target for all NSF directorates to provide eight percent of their budgets to these institutions and asked NSF to "review the desirability and feasibility of establishing a new and separate pool of resources" for these colleges and universities.

For the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate, the House and Senate again split their differences and appropriated \$662 million for FY 1999. This is a \$30 million or 4.5 percent increase over FY 1998, and \$20 million below the President's request. The conferees agreed to rename the

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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. <http://members.aol.com/socscience/COSSAindex.htm>

Alliances for Minority Participation program after retiring Congressman Louis Stokes (D-OH). The program builds partnerships among different kinds of institutions of higher education for the express purpose of attracting and retaining minority students in academic programs that lead to degrees in science and engineering.

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCOR) received an increase of \$10 million above the budget request total of \$48.1 million. This program helps States whose institutions of higher education do not receive a lot of NSF funds, develop capacity to compete for NSF research grants. Almost half the states are now eligible for this program, a favorite of small-State members of Congress. Informal science education also gets a \$10 million increase over last year.

In addition, the conferees target \$13.5 million of EHR funds for education reform initiatives in the Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Of this amount, \$7.5 million is for graduate activities, and \$6 million for undergraduate activities. In addition, \$2 million from the research and related activities account will be provided to increase the undergraduate program to \$8 million.

HUD Policy Research

Also in the VA, HUD bill, the Office of Policy Development and Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development will receive \$47.5 million in FY 1999. This is an \$11 million increase over last year, but \$2.5 million below the President's request. The administration had requested and Congress accepted that \$10 million of the proposed increase go to support a Partnership for Advancing Technologies in Housing (PATH) initiative focused on how to make housing more energy efficient and environmentally sound. The conferees direct HUD to submit an operating plan for PATH by the end of 1998.

HUD is also to report to Congress by June 30, 1999 on the positive or negative impact on the welfare population residing in federally subsidized public housing of States' refusing to accept federal Welfare-to-Work funds.

PRESIDENT VETOES AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL *HS*

The FY 1999 appropriations bill to fund agriculture and rural development programs has passed Congress. However, because the administration believes that the bill does not provide enough disaster assistance to farmers, President Clinton vetoed the bill on October 8. The pressure of adjournment could send this bill into an Omnibus Continuing Resolution.

The bill passed by Congress had both good news and bad news concerning the research and extension programs. For the first time in many years, the National Research Initiative (NRI) Competitive Grants program received a significant increase — to \$119.3 million from \$97.2 million. This is still \$10.7 million below the President's request, but \$22.1 million more than last year. The social science component of the NRI, Markets, Trade and Policy, increased by 18 percent to \$4.6 million.

Ignoring the administration's request to reduce the Hatch Act Formula Grant programs by \$15 million, Congress boosted the appropriation to \$180.5 million, an \$11.8 million increase over FY 1998. The level recommended by the conference exceeded both the House and Senate recommended funding.

Special grants totaled \$63.1 million, slightly less than last year's \$66.1 million. The administration had requested \$37.2 million. Among the special grants are continued funding at \$644,000 for the Rural Policy Institute, \$100,000 for a new Rural Development Center in Louisiana, and \$200,000 for a Center for Rural Studies in Vermont. The bill also continues the Geographic Information System program at \$844,000. Under extension services, \$9 million is provided for Youth-At-Risk programs.

Economics and Statistics

The legislation appropriates \$65.8 million for the Economic Research Service in FY 1999. Included in this amount is \$12.2 million for studies and evaluations of the child nutrition, Woman, Infants and Children (WIC), and food stamp programs. Of this, \$2 million is transferred to the Food and

Nutrition Service (FNS) to conduct programmatic evaluations and analyses. The administration had proposed moving the whole \$12 million back to FNS. The conference report directs that "any welfare studies, analyses, or evaluations undertaken by the agency shall directly relate to USDA programs." The conferees also expect the Department to develop recommendations for eliminating the problem of "plate waste" in the school lunch program.

The National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) received slightly less than \$104 million for its FY 1999 activities, \$3 million less than the President's request. The appropriated funds include \$23.6 million to complete the Census of Agriculture, including \$600,000 for the agriculture economics and land ownership survey and the aquaculture statistics census. The conference report notes that NASS is expected "to continue to revise the Census of Agriculture to eliminate redundancies in questions asked of farmers."

New Program Unfunded

The bad news is that the conferees agreed with the House and refused to fund the new program, Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, that Congress inserted into the farm research reauthorization. The Senate had provided \$120 million in its appropriation bill, but receded to the House in the conference. The program was authorized for \$600 million over five years. Earlier in the year, both the House and Senate eliminated FY 1999 funding for the Fund for Rural America. Thus, a year that began with an authorization bill that provided new and expanded funding for agriculture and rural research, could end with small increases in continuing programs, but no flourishing of new opportunities in this arena.

HIGHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION ENACTED *HS*

After a two year process, Congress has passed and the President has signed the 1998 amendments to the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965. Most of the provisions of this new law concern student financial aid and assistance to institutions. A number

of provisions affecting international education and foreign language studies, aid to graduate students in the social sciences and law, and research on and improvement of postsecondary education are also included in the legislation.

The enacted bill continues Title VI as the international education and foreign language studies part of the law. An earlier proposal to include graduate education programs in this section as well was not adopted. The Coalition for International Education, which includes COSSA, worked to update the Title VI provisions where needed, but asked the Congress to keep the basic structure of the programs intact. Congress adopted this approach and accepted most of the Coalition's recommendations.

The new bill recognizes "dramatic post-Cold War changes" in the world that are creating "the need for American expertise and knowledge about a greater diversity of less commonly taught foreign languages and nations of the world."

Changes in the National Resource Center section include adding foreign language institutes to summer institutes. The unfunded Doctoral Stipend program is eliminated and the provisions for predissertation level studies, preparation for dissertation research, dissertation research abroad, and dissertation writing are incorporated into the language of the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) stipend program.

All language resource centers are required to include effective dissemination efforts. New provisions stress the teaching of less commonly taught languages and include "the operation of intensive foreign language institutes to train advanced foreign language students, to provide professional development, and to improve language instruction through pre-service and in-service language training for teachers." The reauthorization repeals the old free-standing, but never funded, summer institutes program.

The new law strengthens existing programs and encourages new programs at the undergraduate level. Research and studies provisions now include investigations and surveys on using technology in foreign language, area and international studies programs, and on effective methods of achieving

competency in area studies or other international fields. Evaluation studies, especially of dissemination efforts, are also highly recommended.

The legislation repeals the Foreign Periodicals program and replaces it with a new program of "Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access." The idea is to stimulate Title VI grant recipients, libraries, and other institutions of higher education to engage in collaborative projects utilizing innovative applications of information technology. Projects would collect, preserve, and provide broad access to critically needed and expensive resource and instructional materials on world regions and foreign languages. Additional American Overseas Research Centers are also anticipated by the reauthorization. The law provides an authorization of \$80 million in FY 1999 and "such sums as necessary in the subsequent four years covered by the amendments."

Only minor changes were made to the Centers for International Business Education and Research (CIBERS) program. The CIBERS program is authorized at \$11 million in FY 1999 and "such sums..." for the next four years. The Education and Training program is authorized at \$7 million in FY 1999 and "such sums..." for the next four years.

The bill continues the Institute for International Public Policy to train underrepresented minorities for careers in international relations and the foreign service. It is authorized at \$10 million for FY 1999 and "such sums..." for the next four years.

Javits Saved Again, New Thurgood Marshall Program Approved

The old HEA Title IX that focused on support for graduate education is now Title VII under the new amendments. Once again, despite the administration's preference to eliminate it, the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship program has survived. It will continue as a separate program from the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program, which has also been reauthorized.

The Javits fellowships support graduate study in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. What also makes the Javits fellowships different is that they are

portable and "each recipient shall be entitled to use the fellowship at any accredited institution of higher education in which the recipient may decide to attend." The fellowships are awarded to the student, not the college or university. The program is authorized at \$30 million for FY 1999 and "such sums..." for each of the succeeding four years.

The GAANN program grants funds to academic departments and programs of institutions to support graduate students. It is authorized at \$35 million for FY 1999 and "such sums..." for the following four years. The Secretary of Education will consult "with appropriate Federal and nonprofit agencies and organizations" to determine national need. The Secretary "shall take into account the extent to which the interest in the area is compelling, the extent to which other federal programs support postbaccalaureate study in the area concerned, and an assessment of how the program could achieve the most significant impact with available resources."

The new Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program is designed "to provide low-income, minority or disadvantaged college students with the information, preparation, and financial assistance to gain access to and complete law school study." The Council for Legal Educational Opportunity (CLEO) will run the program, as it ran a similar program that Congress defunded a few years ago. The authorization level is \$5 million for FY 1999 and "such sums..." for the following four years.

The new Title VII also reauthorizes the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) which awards grants and contracts to institutions of higher education, and other nonprofit institutions to encourage reforms and innovations in postsecondary education. The bill authorizes \$35 million for this program in FY 1999 and "such sums..." in the ensuing four years.

All these authorizations remain subject to the appropriations process. The expectations are that the appropriators will fund them at a level somewhat less than their authorization levels in FY 1999 and beyond.

NIH EXAMINES SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE PEER REVIEW STUDY SECTIONS *AS*

Responding to the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Behavioral and Social Sciences Review Integration Working Group's request for comments on the proposed study sections to review behavioral and social science at NIH, the Consortium of Social Sciences Associations (COSSA) and two of its member organizations, the American Sociological Association (ASA) and the American Anthropological Association (AAA), provided the working group with several recommendations. The American Psychological Association and the Linguistic Society of America, two of COSSA's other member scientific societies, also provided the NIH working group with additional comments and recommendations.

The Working Group, chaired by Virginia Cain, Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR), was formed in response to a 1992 statute that required the movement of the three agencies that made up the former Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration into the NIH. Current CSR Director Ellie Ehrenfeld saw the requirement as an opportunity to reexamine the review of all behavioral and social science carried out by CSR. The current exercise follows the integration and reorganization of the review of neuroscience. Twelve NIH institutes are participating in the examination.

In offering its recommendations, COSSA was attentive to NIH's overarching goals in undertaking this restructuring: to reflect the current state-of-the-science, to anticipate future developments in science, and to ensure a peer review process that identifies the most meritorious projects. In its letter to NIH, COSSA emphasized that "because it is only in recent years that NIH has become more open to the inclusion of social and behavioral aspects of health, the NIH funding of today does not yet adequately reflect the depth of the current science or promising opportunities in these fields." Accordingly, the group's recommendations are partly directed to helping NIH alter this situation "by devising a study section structure that can best provide merit review for all social and behavioral science and send signals

of this openness widely across the science community.”

COSSA recommended an alteration in and renaming of the current basic framework to *Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences Study Sections and Risk, Health, Intervention, and Prevention Study Sections*. Such a framework “1) recognizes basic research being done in the social sciences; 2) better captures the interactions of basic science study sections; 3) strengthens the connections between risk, disorder, and intervention study sections; and 4) avoids making false distinctions between the social and behavioral sciences.” The recommendation includes a call for a realignment of the study sections within the two clusters to be consistent with this new framework.

Given the need for more attention to the “diverse populations that comprise the United States,” COSSA recommended that the “study section narratives and examples need to highlight where basic and applied research on racial and ethnic minorities would fit.” Additionally, because research on social and behavioral aspects of health and well-being needs to be pursued in settings and on populations that are most appropriate for addressing the scientific issues being examined irrespective of national borders, COSSA noted that the “current draft would benefit from more explicit consideration of the importance of comparative designs, and where appropriate, non-U.S. samples and study sites.”

COSSA further conveyed the importance of the composition of the review panels. “Any restructuring of study sections is highly dependent on the composition of the review panels.” Accordingly, that “while descriptions of study sections (both the ‘General Statements’ and ‘Specific Areas’) can send signals across the social and behavioral sciences about “intellectual homes” for the consideration of research, the probabilities of funding (holding merit constant) is dependent upon the expertise within the group undertaking the review.”

While COSSA commended the NIH in its effort to restructure and integrate the social and behavioral science study sections, it emphasized that “as with any major structural or institutional change, it is important to track its implementation and assess both its intended and unintended consequences.” Thus, it is

imperative that an evaluation of the new model be undertaken, designed and conducted with the benefit of social science expertise in evaluation research.

The current study section descriptions posted on the NIH Website, <http://www.drug.nih.gov/review/bssmain.htm>, have been temporarily organized into two groups: 1) Basic Behavioral Sciences Study Sections, including “biobehavior, cognition, language, developmental disabilities, motor function and factors affecting them;” and 2) Risk, Health, and Social Sciences Study Sections, which include “behavioral medicine, personality, interpersonal relations, population, health services and methodology.” CSR emphasizes that these “groupings may change as the result of additional comments.”

The NIH working group will decide the final set of study sections this fall, incorporating the comments received from the scientific community. The new study section descriptions will be available for researchers submitting applications for the February 1, 1999 receipt date.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES NOMINEE TO HEAD TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS AGENCY

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On September 29, President Clinton formally announced his intent to nominate Ashish Sen to head the Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). Since 1996, Sen, of Chicago, Illinois, has served as the Director of the Statistics and Evaluation Laboratory at the Urban Transportation Center at the University of Illinois in Chicago. In addition, in 1997 he was named the Director of the Urban Transportation Center. The author of numerous articles and two co-authored books relating to statistics and transportation, Sen serves as a Professor of Urban Planning and a Professor of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He earned his Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Toronto.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT *DH*

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 of Justice (NIJ)
Juvenile "Breaking the Cycle" Evaluation
Application Deadline: December 17, 1998

Juvenile "Breaking the Cycle" (JBTC) is a research demonstration project designed to test the effectiveness of a system-wide intervention with drug-involved juvenile arrestees. The goal of this project is to provide drug-testing, drug treatment, graduated sanctions and incentives, and judicial supervision to each drug-involved arrestee regardless of charge or detention status. NIJ is soliciting evaluation of this project. For information or application materials for the JBTC evaluation, contact the Department of Justice Response Center at 800/421-6770, or contact the NIJ Webpage at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
PA Number: PA-98-104

The NIAAA seeks health services research grant applications that are aimed at increasing knowledge about the cost of services for the treatment and prevention of alcoholism and alcohol-related problems. The research objectives include, but are not limited to, the broad goal of advancing scientific understanding of treatment and prevention costs and outcomes as they relate to costs. Studies of costs and outcomes of specific interventions are encouraged, as are studies of the costs and outcomes of classes of interventions (inpatient vs. outpatient). For more information, Mike Hilton, Ph.D., Division of Clinical and Prevention Research, NIAAA, 6000 Executive Boulevard MSC 7003, Bethesda, MD 20892-7003; Telephone: 301/443-8753; Fax: 301/443-8774; Email: mhilton@willco.niaaa.nih.gov.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Request for Applications (RFA): DA-99-002

The NIDA requests applications for research projects in the basic behavioral and cognitive sciences that can address the complex relationship between drug abuse/addiction and HIV/AIDS transmission and progression. Research is needed to characterize the antecedent variables and processes associated with increased risk for contracting HIV/AIDS and to determine the behavioral and cognitive consequences caused by potential combined effects of the virus, drugs of abuse, drug abuse pharmacotherapies, and anti-HIV medications. It is anticipated that about \$1.5 million will be available to support projects submitted under this RFA. For inquiries, contact David Shurtleff, Ph.D., Division of Basic Research, NIDA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 10A-31, Rockville, MD 20857; Telephone: 301/443-1887; Fax: 301/594-6043; Email: ds141a@nih.gov.

National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH)
Program Announcement Number: PA-99-001

The NIMH and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) are encouraging applications for the support of research on the economic evaluation of either planned or completed studies of preventive interventions aimed at HIV/STDs, Mental Disorders, or Dual Diagnoses. For more information, contact Willo Pequegnat, Ph.D., Office of AIDS Research, National Institute of Mental Health, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18-101, Rockville, MD 20857; Telephone: 301/443-6100; Fax: 301/443-9719; Email: Wpequegn@nih.gov.

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Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
Sociologists for Women in Society
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Urban Affairs Association

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