
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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HOUSE PASSES LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The House of Representatives approved the FY 1990 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill on August 2. Aside from removing funding for the proposed National Survey of Health and Sexual Behavior (see Update, July 28, 1989), the House made allocations and other decisions for numerous other programs of concern to social and behavioral scientists. What follows is a description of the funding actions, as well as language in the Subcommittee report accompanying the bill. Although report language does not have the binding nature of law, it is usually ignored only at the agency's peril.

Department of Labor

The House provided \$18.4 million for research and evaluation at the **Employment and Training Administration**, a \$5 million increase over FY 1989. The **Bureau of Labor Statistics** received a \$193.8 million allocation, an increase of \$6.2 million over last year. The requested increase for revision of the Current Population Survey was approved.

Department of Health and Human Services

Unlike previous appropriations, the House this year decided to include AIDS research funding at the National Institutes of

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The Consortium represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community.

Raymond E. Wolfinger, *President*

Howard J. Silver, *Executive Director*

Health (NIH) and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA) as part of the regular process of research funding by those institutes. Under the House bill, research funds would no longer be earmarked, but proposals for AIDS-related research would compete in the regular peer review process. Thus, AIDS spending would be determined by the quality of the applications submitted and the competing research priorities within the institutes as determined by their review panels.

The Committee report also includes language encouraging "continued attention to the social and behavioral questions related to AIDS research throughout the National Institutes" -- rather ironic, given the report language prohibiting the survey of health and sexual behavior.

Total NIH appropriations rose 7.5% over FY 1989 levels, checking in at \$7.7 billion. Funds for the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development would increase by \$23 million over the FY 1989 level to \$448.5 million. The Committee report urged the Institute "to place a greater priority on funding its ongoing special initiative on contraceptive research and development."

The National Institute on Aging received \$241.5 million, an increase of \$18.7 million over FY 1989. Although Congress still believes research on Alzheimer's Disease is the main agenda item for this institute, the House did recognize as a priority the proposed renewal of the longitudinal survey of health and retirement.

Total ADAMHA spending would rise 3.6% to \$1.9 billion in FY 1990. Research and research training at the National Institute of Mental Health would increase by \$24.6 million to \$389.1 million. At the National Institute on Drug Abuse, research and research training received an increase of \$31 million to \$294.6 million. The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism received a \$9.7 million increase to \$119.5 million for its research and research training.

The Centers for Disease Control received \$1.1 billion for FY 1990, an increase of \$103 million over FY 1989. Of this, \$463 million is for AIDS-related activities, \$85.4 million above the FY 1989 level. The funds for AIDS include \$325.8 million for prevention, education, and information. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) appropriation was reduced \$0.6 million to \$47.8 million, though another \$19 million is provided through the Public Health Service 1% evaluation set-aside. The Committee said it expects NCHS to continue funding "all components of the current vital statistics cooperative program, including marriage and divorce statistics."

In the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, funding for AIDS increased from \$13.3 million to \$41.3 million; \$25 million is a contingency fund to meet unexpected needs, but \$2 million is

for AIDS education programs at the nation's science museums. The National Medical Expenditure Survey continues to receive funding. Almost \$4.5 million is allocated for disease prevention and health promotion. At the **Office of Human Development Services**, the House appropriated \$2 million to establish four to five competitively awarded research centers to study the needs of children. The **Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation** received a \$2.8 million reduction from FY 1989 to \$5.0 million. The House encouraged the office to expand its support of the Panel Study on Income Dynamics by adding "a representative, national Latino sample to the existing study."

Department of Education (ED)

The **Office of Education Research and Improvement** units for research, improvement of practice, and information services received \$57 million for FY 1990, an increase of \$9.9 million over last year. About two-thirds of the increase is for a continuation of the regional laboratories' programs on rural schools. The Committee report stipulated that \$1 million be spent on a new center focused on teacher performance evaluation. The **National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)** received \$25.3 million for FY 1990, \$3.5 million more than last year. The **National Assessment of Educational Progress**, administered by NCES, received \$13 million, an increase of \$3.6 million over the FY 1989 amount. And the **Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education** was appropriated \$11.6 million, the same as last year.

After years of level funding and resistance to Reagan administration efforts to abolish the programs, the House this year "is concerned that the long-term economic and strategic needs of the United States require a major expansion in our national capacity to communicate in the critical languages of the world." What is necessary is "a more concentrated effort to carry out carefully targeted research and development activities and to expand that capacity to new, educational, scientific, and business communities." Therefore, the **international education and foreign language studies programs** of the department received a \$9.3 million increase over FY 1989 to \$40.3 million.

Programs to support **graduate education** received mixed signals from the House. The Javits Fellowship program, which supports graduate students in the social sciences, humanities, and the arts, was reduced \$1.1 million from the FY 1989 level to \$6.8 million in FY 1990. If realized, the cut will eliminate about 100 scholarships next year. The Law School Clinical Program received an increase of \$1 million to \$5 million in FY 1990. Included in the appropriation was \$150,000 to fund a national evaluation conference, to be held during FY 1990. The Harris Public Service Fellowships survived another attempt at elimination, receiving \$3.2 million, the same as last year.

In an interesting comment on the Department of Education, the Committee reduced funding for **math/science education programs** at ED because "targeted math and science programs of the National

Science Foundation are a better mechanism for improving math and science education in this country." The United States Institute of Peace received \$6.4 million, the same as last year.<<

OTHER APPROPRIATIONS MOVE FORWARD

Prior to leaving for the August recess/district work period, the House of Representatives succeeded in passing all 13 FY 1990 appropriations bills. The Senate, however, has passed only four, and with fiscal 1990 beginning October 1, senators have a busy September awaiting them. If Congress fails to beat the clock, a continuing resolution will likely be necessary to keep the government running.

In addition to the congressional recess, August also brings the Office of Management and Budget's snapshot of the FY 1990 deficit for Gramm-Rudman-Hollings (GRH) purposes. There seems to be a consensus that things will be all right for FY 1990, but the following year looms ominously on the horizon. The debt limit bill to be debated in September, however, could provide an opportunity to fine-tune GRH and avoid the expected crunch.

Highlights of congressional appropriations not previously discussed in Update follow:

Department of Agriculture

The House provided \$158.55 million for Hatch Act funding at the **Cooperative State Research Service**. The Senate approved last year's level of \$155.55 million. The House provided a \$200,000 grant to evaluate the regional implications of changes in farm programs. Both Houses included \$3.35 million under the **Extension Service** appropriation for rural recovery pilot projects in certain states to provide education and counseling services to farmers who have been adversely affected by the rural economic crisis. The **Economic Research Service** received \$50.5 million from the House and \$51.7 million from the Senate, slight increases over the FY 1989 level of \$49.3 million. The **National Agricultural Statistics Service** received \$67 million from both the House and Senate, an increase of \$4.3 million over FY 1989. The **Human Nutrition Information Service** received \$9.1 million from both Houses, a \$322,000 increase over last year.

Department of Commerce

The House provided \$101.3 million for the salaries and expenses accounts of the **Census Bureau**. Although this is a \$5.3 million increase over FY 1989, it is less than required to fund existing programs at levels of normal growth. The bill also included \$1.32 billion for periodic censuses and programs. Almost \$800 million of the \$805 million increase over last year will go to additional activities necessary to conduct the 1990 decennial census, an event the Committee report noted "is a cyclical item which is required by the U.S. Constitution. The Committee really

has no choice but to provide an increase." The Committee strongly supported the development of the TIGER file system, the automated geographic support system (see Update, June 30, 1989). Economic and Statistical Analysis programs received a \$38,000 decrease to \$32.86 million.

Department of Justice

For the National Institute of Justice, the House provided \$23.8 million, an increase of \$2.8 million over last year. The Bureau of Justice Statistics was allocated \$21 million, an increase of slightly more than \$1 million over FY 1989. The House once again rejected administration attempts to abolish the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and appropriated \$69.7 million, a \$5 million increase over last year's appropriation. The State Justice Institute received \$11.2 million from the House, a quarter-of-a-million-dollar increase.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

With all the commotion caused by the amendment from Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) restricting grants to artists and the punishment meted out to those groups promoting arts projects deemed to be "obscene," the appropriation for NEH got lost in the shuffle. The House provided \$161.3 million and the Senate \$153.3 million; last year's appropriation was \$153 million.

Unauthorized Programs

The House refused to appropriate funds for a number of programs whose authorizations have not passed yet. These include the United States Information Agency and the Soviet-East European Research Program.

COSSA BOARD MEMBER ELECTED CHAIR OF AIDS COMMISSION

COSSA Board Member June Osborn has been elected chair of the newly established National Commission on AIDS. Osborn, dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health, was chosen by her fellow commissioners at the advisory group's first meeting, held August 3 in Washington, DC.

Created by Congress, the Commission is expected to develop and promote a consensus on national AIDS policy. With its members representing a wide range of AIDS-related expertise, it is hoped that the Commission's work will garner the attention and respect needed to accomplish its goals.

In his opening remarks at the August 3 meeting, Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan observed that the nation at this point "is looking to this Commission for leadership." Rep. J. Roy Rowland, M.D. (D-GA), who first proposed the Commission two years ago, echoed Sullivan, noting that the battle against AIDS "still lacks a coherent national direction."

The congressman added, however, that progress has been made. As one example, he cited the work of the Presidential Commission on the HIV Epidemic, whose final report listed a wide range of recommendations, many of them touching on the social and behavioral sciences (see Update, June 10, 1988). Osborn, too, applauded the Presidential Commission's work and called it a "template" around which the National Commission could build a consensus.<<

COSSA WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER, NEW 'ARRIVAL'

Joe Thorndike, formerly a Capitol Hill reporter for Tax Notes, has joined the COSSA staff as executive associate. A 1988 graduate of Williams College with a B.A. in history, Thorndike has also taken the helm as editor of COSSA Washington Update. The Consortium is pleased to welcome him aboard. At the same time, we bid farewell to Brian Daly, who has served as executive associate for two years and Update editor for one; we wish him well in his endeavors on the West Coast.

A final COSSA announcement: Government Liaison Stacey Beckhardt gave birth on July 26 to a 7-pound, 8-ounce boy. Beckhardt is taking a well-earned leave of absence for the remainder of 1989, during which mother and child can become better acquainted. We offer our whole-hearted congratulations to Mom and Dad and an exuberant Happy Birthday to their new son, Aaron.<<

ISSC SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR FIFTH STEIN ROKKAN PRIZE

The International Social Science Council (ISSC) has announced that the fifth Stein Rokkan Prize will be awarded in December, 1990. The prize is intended to reward "a very substantial and original contribution" in comparative social science research. Candidates must be younger than 40 as of December 31, 1990. Their submitted work can be in the form of an unpublished manuscript of book length, or a printed book or collected works published after December, 1987.

Four copies of manuscripts or printed works should be delivered to ISSC before March 15, 1990, along with a formal letter of application with evidence of the candidate's age attached. The \$2,000 Prize, to be awarded in conjunction with the Conjunto Universitario Candido Mendes (Rio de Janeiro), may be divided between two or more applicants, should it be found difficult to decide among equally valuable works. The award will be made at the December, 1990, ISSC General Assembly meeting. For further information, contact the ISSC Secretary General, UNESCO - 1, rue Miollis, 75015 Paris, France.<<

NOTE TO READERS:

The next issue of Update will be published September 8.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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 for Occupational Safety and Health

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has announced the availability of funding for new and competing renewal research and demonstration project grants under its jurisdiction. They include:

Research Project Grants: Proposed projects should establish, discover, develop, or confirm information relating to occupational safety and health, including innovative methods, techniques, and approaches for dealing with occupational safety and health problems. NIOSH plans to fund about 12 new and competing renewal grants, with average awards of \$140,000. Next application receipt deadline: October 1, 1989.

Demonstration Grants: Proposed projects should address the technical or economic feasibility or application of: a new or improved occupational safety or health procedure, method, or system; or an innovative method, technique, or approach for preventing occupational safety or health problems. Next application receipt deadline: October 1, 1989 1989.

Special Emphasis Research Career Award (SERCA) grants: SERCA proposals should enhance the research capability of individuals in the formative stages of their careers who have demonstrated outstanding potential for contributing as independent investigators to health-related research (restrictions and other eligibility requirements apply). NIOSH expects to support about eight new grants at a total cost of approximately \$260,000. Next application receipt deadline: November 1, 1989.

Small Grants: These grants are intended to provide financial support to carry out exploratory or pilot studies, to develop or test new techniques or methods, or to analyze data previously collected. NIOSH expects to fund about 12 new grants at a total cost of approximately \$270,000. Next application receipt deadline: November 1, 1989.

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