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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## NSF APPROPRIATIONS: SENATE PASSAGE AWAITS DRUG FUNDING DEAL

With the new fiscal year little more than a week away, Congress has yet to finish action on a variety of FY 1990 appropriations bills. Progress remains stalled in the Senate, with legislators distracted by major anti-drug legislation and a controversial FY 1990 budget reconciliation measure. With October 1 edging ever nearer, many veteran budget watchers are predicting stop-gap measures (in the form of a continuing resolution) to keep the government operating after the money runs out.

Spending bills already cleared by committee and awaiting final Senate passage are on hold pending the culmination of a deal on how much and how to fund major increases in anti-drug programs; current negotiations suggest that an across-the-board reduction of up to 0.5 percent in all other programs may be necessary to pay the bill.

The FY 1990 Veterans Affairs-Housing and Urban Development-Independent Agencies appropriations bill was debated on the Senate floor on September 19, but like other spending measures still awaits final Senate approval. Marked-up September 12 by the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), the bill includes funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The major difference with the corresponding House bill is the Senate's willingness to provide funds (\$20 million) for a facilities modernization program that the administration and the NSF omitted from the FY 1990 funding request.

In total, the Senate bill would appropriate \$2.0636 billion

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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*

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for NSF in FY 1990, a 9.5 percent increase above FY 1989 funding. The boost, however, is considerably below the 14 percent hike sought by the agency. The House gave the Foundation \$1.999 billion (with an expected \$82 million from the DOD appropriation bill for the Antarctica program).

The Research and Related Activities account received \$1.685 billion from the Senate committee, a 6.4 percent increase from FY 1989, but \$30 million below the House appropriation and \$118 million below the request. The Senate panel specifically rejected the language in the House report providing some protection for the social sciences from the necessary reductions that NSF will make in preparing its FY 1990 operating plan.

The Senate report did, however, include supportive language for the global change initiative in the social and behavioral sciences: "The Committee also recognizes the important role that the behavioral and social sciences can play in the area of global change. Public policies, regulation, industrial policies, and agricultural practices all have a cumulative effect in the biology and chemistry of the Earth's surface in ways not fully understood. The Committee believes the overall global change initiative will be enriched through related research in the behavioral and social sciences."

The committee offered \$200 million for science and engineering education, 17 percent more than the FY 1989 funding, \$10 million below the House figure, and \$10 million above the request. The panel recommends that one-half the increase go to precollege teacher preparation and enhancement activity, and one-

**NSF FY 1990 APPROPRIATIONS**  
(all figures are in millions)

	1989	1990 REQUEST	1990 HOUSE	1990 SENATE
Research & Related Act.	1583	1803	1715	1685
Facilities	0	0	0	20
Antarctic (DOD contrib)	131	156	74 82	73 83
Science & Eng. Education	171	190	210	200
<b>TOTAL NSF</b>	<b>1885</b>	<b>2149</b>	<b>2081</b>	<b>2063</b>

Note: Does not include 37.5 million from FY 1989 supplemental for rebuilding radio telescope in West Virginia.

half to career access opportunities in science and technology for women, minorities, and the disabled. The committee also established a separate line item for the inspector general's office and asked the NSF to prepare a report on the possibility of establishing an Office of Scientific Integrity similar to the one established by the National Institutes of Health.

The differences between the House and Senate bills will be worked out in a conference committee that will try to meet the deadline of September 30 to avoid the funding for agencies in this bill from inclusion in a continuing resolution.<<

#### **SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION APPROPRIATION**

In other Senate committee action, the Labor, HHS, Education and related agencies appropriations subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), marked up its FY 1990 bill on September 13, making allocations and other decisions for numerous programs of concern to social and behavioral scientists. What follows is a description of the recent Senate funding actions (S), comparable House funding actions (H), and FY 1989 funding (LY). Unless otherwise indicated, all figures are given in millions.

#### **Department of Labor**

Research and Evaluation at the **Employment and Training Administration (ETA)**: \$15.93 (S), \$18.43 (H), \$13.43 (LY). The committee report includes language submitted by COSSA encouraging the revival of ETA's dissertation grant program, which was discontinued in 1984. The Committee also earmarked \$2.5 million to identify labor market shortages.

**The Bureau of Labor Statistics**: 193.2 (S), \$193.8 (H), \$187.6 (LY). The requested increase for revision of the Current Population Survey was approved.

#### **Department of Health and Human Services**

Total NIH appropriations (including AIDS): \$7.713 billion (S), \$7.679 billion (H), \$7.145 billion (LY). Breaking with the House, the Senate set aside specific funding for AIDS-related research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA). 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. The Senate bill, by contrast, set aside specific funding for AIDS related research. In addition, the Committee report also includes strong language directing "expanded attention to the social and behavioral science questions that are naturally part of the NIH AIDS research mission."

The Committee report also includes a strong statement supporting scientists in their view that there has been an overreaction to instances of scientific fraud and misconduct.

"Moreover, it must be borne in mind," the committee states, "that the creative instinct, which is the essence of scientific research, thrives in an environment of free inquiry, but can be destroyed by excessive Government regulation or by an atmosphere of intimidation."

Funds for the **National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)**: \$450.6 (S), \$448.5 (H), \$425.5. The Committee report urges the Institute to explore the possibility of funding the Bush Centers on Child Development with the increases provided.

The **National Institute on Aging**: \$245.5 (S), \$241.5 (H), \$222.8 (LY). Although Congress still appears to believe that research on Alzheimer's Disease is the main agenda item for this institute, the Senate included language noting that it believes the "proposed new national multiyear health and retirement survey is important and expects the increased appropriations will fund the \$500,000 necessary for the first phase of this effort."

The Senate report includes strong language admonishing the NIH effort in Health and Behavior research, particularly citing NIH's failure to give any indication of long-range planning efforts to increase its investment in health and behavior research from the current three percent of overall funding. "The NIH must bring into alignment its support for biobehavioral research with the human and economic costs of behavior-related illnesses and disability to society," the report states.

Total **ADAMHA** spending (including AIDS): \$2.005 billion (S), \$1.917 billion (H), \$1.844 (LY). Research and research training at the **National Institute of Mental Health**: \$424.5 (S), \$389.1 (H), \$354.5 (LY). There is also strong language referencing three reports recommending increased spending on behavioral and social science research at NIMH. Since NIMH is judged to have ignored these reports, the Senate bill asks for a "study of the role of behavioral and social science in the Institute and to report back to the Committee on new plans to initiate new programs aimed at increasing a behavioral and psychological presence at NIMH."

The **National Institute on Drug Abuse** research and research training: \$288.5 (S), \$294.6 (H), \$263.5 (LY). The **National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism** research and research training: \$122.3 (S), \$119.5 (H), \$109.9 (LY).

The **Centers for Disease Control**: \$1.14 billion (S), \$1.08 billion (H), \$997.2 (LY). Of this, \$452 (S), \$463 (H), \$378 (LY) is for AIDS-related activities. The Senate subcommittee did not approve FY 1990 funds for the proposed **National Survey of Health and Sexual Behavior**, but did note that "the Committee is awaiting the results of the pilot survey that has already been funded." The **National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)**: \$47.8(S)(H), \$48.4 (LY), though another \$19 million is provided from the Public Health Service one percent evaluation set-aside.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, funding for AIDS: \$16.3 (S), \$41.3 (H), \$13.3 (LY). Most of the difference between the House and Senate figures is attributable to the Senate's omission of a \$25 million contingency fund. The National Medical Expenditure Survey continues to receive funding.

For the Office of Human Development Services (OHDS): \$4.1 billion (S), \$2.8 billion (H), \$2.6 billion (LY). The Senate includes funds for child care payments under new legislation, while the House does not. The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE): \$5.0 (S)(H), \$7.9 (LY). Despite the reduction both the Senate and House encourage the office to expand its support of the Panel Study on Income Dynamics (PSID) by adding "a representative, national Latino sample to the existing study."

#### Department of Education (DOE)

The Office of Education Research and Improvement units for research, improvement of practice, and information services: \$55.1 (S), \$57 (H), \$47.1 (LY). About two-thirds of the increase is for a continuation of the regional laboratories' programs on rural schools. The Committee report stipulated that one \$1 million be spent on a new center focused on teacher performance evaluation.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES): \$25.3 million (S)(H), \$21.7 The National Assessment of Educational Progress, administered by NCES: \$15.0 (S), \$13.0 (H), \$9.4 (LY). And the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE): \$11.6 (S)(H)(LY).

The international education and foreign language studies programs of the department: \$38.3 (S), \$40.3 (H), \$31.1 (LY). Most of the increase is slated for the expansion of the International Business Education Centers program. One million dollars is set-aside for two foreign language resource centers focused on critical language training.

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: \$8 (S), \$6.8 (H), \$7.9 (LY). The Law School Clinical Program: \$3.95 (S), \$5 (H), \$3.95 (LY). The Harris Public Service Fellowships survived another attempt at elimination: \$3.2 (S)(H)(LY).

Finally, the United States Institute of Peace: \$7.8 (S), \$6.9 (H)(LY).<<

#### WHITE HOUSE RELEASES GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PLAN

The White House released September 1 a global change research program for FY 1990. Entitled "Our Changing Planet," the plan calls for spending \$191.5 million on research activities

next year, an increase of 43 percent over FY 1989 appropriations, according to a White House press release.

Office of Science and Technology Policy Director D. Allen Bromley hailed the report as a major step forward in research on global climate change. "The president's 1990 budget was the first to reflect a government-wide, integrated program of research focused on global change," he said in a September 7 news release.

Aspects of the plan focusing on "Human Interactions" receive no new funding in the FY 1990 budget, but the report states that National Science Foundation and U.S. Geological Survey will "augment efforts in this area through a reprogramming of existing funds in FY 1990." The plan earmarks \$1.0 million for basic social and behavioral science research on the relationships among global environmental change and human activities, including social, economic, political, legal, and institutional processes. The program also allots \$1.0 million in redirected funds for establishment of land surface data systems, and \$0.2 million for improvement of social data systems. Finally, the research framework includes \$0.2 million for initial methodological and substantive research to develop more sophisticated models of human and institutional interactions in global change.

The plan also includes a research role for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), much of it already in place in the FY 1989 budget. EPA's current spending includes \$18.5 million for research focused on global change, including investigations into the impact of climate change on society and the identification of institutional, economic, and cultural barriers to the limitation of global emissions.<<

#### **FEDERAL STATISTICS NEED WORK, CONGRESSIONAL AGENCY SAYS**

Defects in the nation's existing statistical system limit the understanding of key economic issues, according to the congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). In a September 7 background paper, the OTA argues that the Administration's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has failed to provide adequate management of America's statistical agencies.

Noting the varied and subtle nature of changes underway in today's economy, the OTA acknowledged the difficulty of providing accurate and useful statistics. Such figures, however, are crucial to effective policy making, and the report points to a number of areas in need of improvement, especially the evaluation of real growth in areas most affected by changes in the capability of high technology equipment. Other areas in need of improvement, according to OTA, are international trade, corporate investment in education, and changes in the distribution of income.

Copies of the 52-page report, "Statistical Needs for a Changing U.S. Economy," are available for \$2.50 from the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402. The GPO stock number is 052-003-01162-0.<<

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**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: COMMISSION ON THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE CONSTITUTION**

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.

**Constitution Bicentennial Educational Grant Program**

The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution is seeking FY 1990 grant applications for the development of instructional materials and programs concerning the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights. Resulting materials and methods should be designed for use in elementary and secondary schools.

Intended to foster a better understanding of the Constitution among elementary and secondary school teachers, the grant program also encourages projects designed to affect students directly. Programs for adult students in an elementary or secondary school environment are also invited. The Commission specifically encourages proposals from non-traditional educational organizations, including those concerned with ethnic and minority interests.

Funding will be awarded in both fall and spring competitions. For the former, the Commission's focus will be the judiciary and its historical development in the 200 years since the first session on the Supreme Court. For those projects to be implemented during the 1990-1991 school year, the Commission welcomes proposals that focus on the Bill of Rights and subsequent Amendments.

**Application Procedure:** Applications and information can be obtained from the contact listed below.

**Budget:** Approximately \$1.8 million will be available for each competition.

**Funding Mechanism:** The Commission expects to fund 30 to 35 awards of \$3,000 to \$125,000 each.

**Deadlines:** Fall competition: November 13, 1989  
Spring competition: May 21, 1990

**Contact:** Anne A. Fickling  
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