

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## COMMITTEE RELEASES LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION FUNDING BILL *H3*

Each year the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies appropriations subcommittee marks up its huge bill and then embargoes the results until the full committee ratifies the decisions. Leaks are rare, except for vague and general notions, and subcommittee Chairman William Natcher (D-KY) commands prestige such that secrets are kept.

This year the subcommittee marked up its bill on June 20. On July 12 the full committee acted, and interest groups concerned with labor, education, health, and human services finally discovered how Natcher and his colleagues treated their favorite programs.

In general, most programs received significant increases, although these funding decisions are subject to further complications from a budget agreement or Gramm-Rudman-Hollings reductions.

What follows are highlights of the panel's funding decisions. The next issue of UPDATE will include a full analysis of the dollar increases and accompanying committee report language (which provides insight into congressional priorities and directives).

### Health and Human Services

Funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is up 14.3 percent over FY 1990 to \$8.3 billion (including AIDS research funds). The National Institute on Aging received a 21.7 percent increase and the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is up 14.5 percent.

Research (including AIDS) at the National Institute of Mental Health is up 10.3 percent, at the National Institute on Drug Abuse up 20.5 percent, and at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and

Alcoholism up 8.6 percent. Research training funds were deferred until passage of an authorization bill.

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research received a whopping 37.8 percent increase over FY 1990, while Policy Research in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation is up 83.3 percent to more than \$9 million; this last figure reflects the biennial payment for research at the Institute on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin.

### Education

For the Department of Education, overall spending is slated at \$26 billion, up \$3 billion from FY 1990. The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, most programs funding graduate students (including the Javits program of fellowships for students in the social sciences and humanities), and international education programs all received increases, including the first in a long time for the Fulbright-Hays overseas fellowship program.

Educational research and statistics were treated well. The committee granted administration requests for significant increases (10 percent for research and 84 percent for statistics). The four new programs proposed by the White House met with

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more mixed success: principal training was not funded at all; dropout prevention research received funds under the school improvement program; follow-ups to the 1989 education summit received half its request; and education reform evaluation was fully funded.

At the Department of Labor, the Bureau of Labor Statistics received a 7.6 percent increase over FY 1990 for its federal (non-trust) funds. The research and evaluation component of the Employment and Training Administration received the requested level, reflecting a 15 percent decrease from last year.

## CONGRESS TRIES TO IMPROVE U.S. EDUCATION SYSTEM

Ever since the Carnegie Endowment released its harshly-critical 1983 report on American education, *A Nation at Risk*, policymakers have been struggling to improve the quality of American learning. Concerned by changing demographics and a continuing stream of unfavorable assessments of student achievement (particularly in international comparisons), Congress has tried to legislate a variety of programs that will help.

The major vehicle for action this year is a bill "To Improve Education in the United States" (H.R. 5115). Having passed the House Education and Labor Committee, chaired by Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-CA), the bill is scheduled for debate on the House floor during the week of July 16.

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The House bill includes many of the provisions of S. 695, which the Senate passed earlier this year. The House measure also includes several ideas gleaned from President Bush's 1989 education package. Among the recycled proposals are: presidential schools of distinction; safe, disciplined, and drug-free schools; improvements in math and science education; and presidential awards for excellence in education. In addition, the bill includes several of the committee's own ideas, giving the measure a \$1 billion price tag.

The House legislation includes a section authorizing \$20 million for grants "to establish demonstration projects to develop exemplary and innovative diagnostic assessment systems and policies." Congress is particularly interested in how data gathered through comprehensive, district-wide assessments will be disaggregated for measuring student strengths and weaknesses. The bill provides that data be presented in non-technical language to "appropriate members of the school community."

In addition, the legislation authorizes programs for teacher training in diagnostic assessment skills. This and all the bill's new assessment programs should relate to research supported by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement on standardized testing.

### Literacy Institute

The House bill calls for the establishment of a National Institute for Literacy, which would conduct basic and applied research and demonstrations on "how adults learn to read and write and acquire other skills." The measure requires development of a national data base on literacy skill programs, assessment tools and measures, and the amount and quality of basic education provided in the workplace.

A section of the bill on "Instruction on the History and Basic Principles of Democracy in the United States" directs the Secretary of Education to enter into a contract with the Center for Civic Education to "carry out a program to educate students about the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights, and to foster civic competence and civic responsibility."

In a related development, Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI) has introduced a sense of the Senate resolution deploring the lack of civics knowledge among American students. The resolution encourages state governments, local governments, and local educational agencies to adopt a comprehensive curricular program for K-12 to "foster civic competence and civic responsibility."

### Teacher Training

Pell and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) have also shepherded a bill through the Senate to strengthen teacher preparation and training. S. 1676 includes loan forgiveness provisions for teachers in disadvantaged areas, as well as research and demonstration projects on class size reduction, model programs in teacher preparation (including mentoring programs), and the establishment of national teacher academies.

The teacher academy provision would designate one national academy for each subject taught in elementary and secondary schools. The social sciences are represented in three academy topics: civics and government, history and geography, and economics. The program is intended to provide in-service training programs in subject matter, methodology, and teacher education.

The national academies would also provide administrators for a network of congressional district academies. These will be mini-national academies established in each congressional district in the same subject areas for the same purposes. The bill authorizes \$75 million for the national academies and \$250 million for the congressional district academies. Although H.R. 5115 includes provisions for teacher enhancement, it envisions nothing of this scope.

## SOCIAL SCIENTISTS CRITICIZE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Constitutional amendments requiring a balanced federal budget have been kicked around Washington political circles for years. While proponents tout the idea as a solution to the capital's budget deadlock, foes describe it as an unnecessary and unworkable addition to the Constitution.

Despite support from both the Reagan and Bush administrations, supporters of the amendment have never found enough congressional support to send the bill to the states. In recent weeks, however, amendment champions have succeeded in forcing a vote in the House of Representatives.

Over the objections of Democratic leaders, proponents mustered 218 signatures on a petition to discharge the bill from the House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Rep. Jack Brooks (D-TX). The measure has been stalled in Brooks's committee all session.

While most observers expect the measure to fall short of the two-thirds majority necessary to pass constitutional amendments, the vote itself reflects a significant victory for amendment supporters. The floor vote is scheduled for July 17.

### House Hearings

In two days of hearings last week, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Economic and Commercial Law, also chaired by Brooks, heard arguments on both sides of the amendment debate. Supporters, including Office of Management and Budget Chief Richard Darman, argued that the amendment could restore fiscal responsibility to the budget process. Several social scientists, however, criticized the measure as economically undesirable and fundamentally ineffective.

Alice Rivlin, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, argued that balance in the federal budget is not always desirable. Rivlin, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), noted that certain economic conditions merit federal deficit spending.

The Urban Institute's Rudolph Penner, another past CBO director, noted a variety of substantive and technical problems with the amendment. The central problem, he explained, is a lack of strong public consensus. While most Americans favor the idea of a balanced budget, most also oppose higher taxes or major spending cuts. Without broad-based support for fiscal austerity, Penner contended, the amendment is doomed to failure. "An artificial constraint can cause chaos," he noted in his testimony, "as Prohibition clearly showed."

Charles L. Schultze, a Brookings senior fellow and former director of the Bureau of the Budget under President Johnson, added his voice to the opposition. American government is not historically biased toward deficit spending, he argued, making a balanced budget amendment and unnecessary addition to the Constitution.

Furthermore, Schultze said, an amendment would almost certainly involve the judiciary in budget decisions. He also argued that the amendment would periodically cause major economic damage by forbidding the government from intervening to stabilize the economy.

Walter Dellinger of Duke University Law School criticized the amendment for its lack of an enforcement mechanism. "It would be wonderful if we could simply declare by constitutional amendment that the air would henceforth be clean, and that the streets would be free of drugs and the budget balanced forever," Dellinger told the panel. "But saying those things in the Constitution does not make them happen."

## HOUSE APPROVES MORE SOVIET-EAST EUROPE RESEARCH FUNDING

The House of Representatives passed on June 27 the Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which includes \$5.3 million for the Soviet-East European Research and Training program. Combined with \$4.8 million from the State Department appropriations bill, the program will more than double its FY 1990 funds.

In its report on the bill, the House Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee noted the need to improve American understanding of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

"It is crucial," the report notes, "that the United States has the expertise to follow, understand and deal with those societies [the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe] so that the U.S. can carry out its own foreign policies in a knowledgeable and responsible manner which best serves our own national interests. This program helps us do that."

## NEH REAUTHORIZATION IN THE FACE OF NEA CONTROVERSY

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) were created together in 1965. Ever since, the two agencies have faced simultaneous reauthorization. This year's controversy over NEA funding decisions has largely eclipsed discussion of NEH issues, perhaps thankfully. And although some of the restrictions planned for NEA may affect NEH, there have been a few gains for the humanities agency.

The most significant advance can be found in a report from the House Education and Labor Committee, chaired by Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-CA). The report directs NEH to strengthen its information and data collection efforts. Although a compendium of data on the state of the humanities in America will be released in October 1990, the committee encourages the endowment to "make known its interest in receiving grant applications for projects to collect and analyze specialized data on the humanities and for secondary analyses relevant to understanding trends in the humanities." The committee assumes "such applications will be subject to the regular peer review process."

The Committee report does not, however, mention anything about graduate fellowships in the humanities, which were the subject of much discussion during hearings of the Select Education Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Pat Williams (D-MT). (See UPDATE, May 4, 1990.) Apparently, the opposition of NEH Chair Lynne Cheney was too large an obstacle.

## SCIENCE ACADEMY TAKES ON MENTORSHIP, BUT LEAVES OUT SOCIAL SCIENCE

The system of scientific mentorship and graduate training fundamentally works, according to participants in the new National Academy of Science seminar series on scientific conduct. Some participants in the July 10 seminar, however, debated just how well the system responds to student needs. The meeting was sponsored by the Academy's Com-

mittee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy which recently initiated a study on scientific conduct (see UPDATE, June 15, 1990).

Chemist John Brauman of Stanford University, the invited speaker and author of the study's chapter on mentorship, argued that the current system of providing guidance to Ph.D. candidates is appropriate and successful. He suggested, however, that the system does not include sufficient incentives to ensure that faculty take the educational component of their job seriously. But while acknowledging that problem, Brauman made clear that "we don't want to tamper with a system that is working so well."

Jules Lapidus, president of the Council of Graduate Schools and the invited discussant, echoed Brauman's conclusion. Most problems, he contended, are not systemic but idiosyncratic. The success of the mentoring role depends on a "one-to-one relationship" similar in many ways to a parent-child relationship. Problems exist, he conceded, but it is "basically a good process;" any problems "need to be corrected in context."

Participants accepted the speakers' generally positive view of mentorship, but some doubted that the picture was quite so rosy. Several, notably Maxine Singer, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, argued that the study must be broadened to include input from students.

Pointing to such issues as the increased time needed to complete the degree and the role of graduate students as teaching assistants, many participants described a growing dissatisfaction among Ph.D. candidates. Katherine Bick, formerly at the National Institutes of Health, said many students in biomedical science view graduate school as the "last remnant of slavery." NAS President Frank Press also expressed concern that, unlike scientific misconduct, the mentoring system is "not self-correcting."

Social and behavioral science was noticeably absent from the session's discussion. In fact, Brauman specifically indicated that these disciplines were beyond the scope of the study. When COSSA questioned this decision, particularly in light of pressures from exceptionally tight funding for training for the social and behavioral sciences, Study Director Rose-

mary Chalk confirmed that the scope will be limited. She indicated that scientists from these disciplines will be included on the study committee and, therefore, will have an opportunity to review the chapter.

## NRC RELEASES AIDS REPORT HIGHLIGHTING SOCIAL SCIENCE

Changing people's behavior "continues to be our primary weapon in retarding the spread of HIV," states a new National Research Council (NRC) report, *AIDS: The Second Decade*. Released on June 20, the report calls for increased support of social, behavioral, and statistical science research related to HIV infection and AIDS.

The study was drafted by the Committee on AIDS Research and the Behavioral, Social, and Statistical Sciences, chaired by Lincoln Moses of Stanford University. Established in 1987 under the NRC Commission on the Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, the AIDS panel was created amidst "growing awareness that understanding HIV transmission, facilitating behavioral change to prevent further spread of infection, and coping with the social consequences of the epidemic raise questions that properly lie within the domain of the social, behavioral, and statistical sciences."

The Public Health Service initiated and supported the study, charging the committee:

"to review the changing nature of the epidemic in the United States and the needs of the diverse populations being affected by it, such as adolescents and women (including prostitutes); to describe behavioral research and intervention strategies that could assist in protecting the blood supply; and to review a selected set of methodological issues that affect the quality of data collected in surveys of drug use and sexual practices."

The committee noted that the epidemic's demographics are changing both in terms of populations at risk and geographic diversity. Effective intervention, the committee concluded, requires research on the transmission of the virus, problems of relapse from risk-reducing behaviors, and the role of alcohol and other drugs within the context of various sub-

populations, including minorities, women, and adolescents.

The report makes clear that adolescents must be reached before they start engaging in risky practices, and the committee offers extensive recommendations for reaching this population.

The report also counters the view that prostitutes are the link to increased infection in the heterosexual community. Risk of transmission for this population appears more closely associated with drug use than multiple sexual clients.

Included in the study are several suggestions for improving the recruitment and retention of blood donors, as well as strategies for discouraging at-risk individuals from donating. The study also discusses the need to change medical practices to decrease the demands on the blood supply.

Committee members gave considerable attention to survey methods, with the committee reviewing a sample of the existing literature to assess the quality of existing data and make recommendations for improvements. Issues raised include sampling procedures, nonresponse bias, validity, and reliability.

While noting some problems, the report concludes that "surveys of sexual behavior and drug use behavior can enlist the cooperation of the vast majority of the American public." The committee calls for increased support of methodological research to improve the measurement of behaviors associated with the transmission of HIV.

Copies of the report are available from National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20418. Tel: 202-334-3313.

## **HHS APPOINTS SLEEP DISORDERS COMMISSION**

On July 9, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Louis Sullivan announced the appointment of 10 members to the National Commission on Sleep Disorders Research. Slow to get started, this commission was authorized in 1988 as part of the Omnibus Health Bill.

Sleep disorders affect a broad cross-section of the population, ranging from infants with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome to older people with insomnia. Behavior has been implicated as a factor in many sleep problems. According to HHS, the commission is charged with assessing the current status of sleep disorders research and, subsequently, developing a long range funding plan.

The 10 commission members include one behavioral scientist, psychologist Mary Carskadon of Brown University. The commission selected Andrew Monjan as its executive secretary. Monjan, a psychologist, is on the staff of the Neuroscience and Neuropsychology of Aging Program at the National Institute on Aging.

### **FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM SEEKS APPLICATIONS**

U.S. colleges and universities, including community colleges, are invited to submit proposals for a Fulbright grant to host a visiting lecturer from abroad. The purpose of the program is to initiate or develop international programs at colleges and universities by using a scholar-in-residence to internationalize the curriculum, set up global studies or area-specific programs, or otherwise expand contacts of students and faculty with other cultures.

Preference is given to proposals in the humanities or social sciences, although other fields focusing on international issues will be considered. The program currently covers all regions of the world except Eastern Europe.

The application deadline is November 1. Materials can be obtained from the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 3400 International Drive, NW, Suite M-500, Box NEWS, Washington, DC 20008-3097. Tel: (202) 686-7866.

## SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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.

### Children with HIV Infection and AIDS

The National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the National Center for Nursing Research are seeking applications for grants to support research on children with HIV infection and AIDS.

AIDS is the ninth leading cause of death among children between one and four years of age. Health authorities estimate that by 1991, one of every 10 pediatric hospital beds will be occupied by a child with AIDS. Institutes in the Public Health Service (PHS) already have active program announcements concerning HIV infection and AIDS. PHS seeks, however, to fund research on topics of particular concern to children. The institutes are also interested in research on the families and caregivers of children with HIV infection and AIDS. Possible areas of research include:

- Central nervous system effects of HIV infection in infants;
- Brain, immune system, and neurological aspects of HIV;
- Accurate methods of diagnosis and assessment of neurologic and neuropsychological abnormalities and dysfunction;
- Neurobehavioral, psychiatric, and psychosocial issues;
- Prevalence of developmental and mental disorders associated with HIV infection and AIDS
- Nature and course of HIV-related mental disorders;
- Mental health services for children and families affected by AIDS
- Research on behavior change and prevention strategies for children and adults.

**Funding Mechanism:** Support will be through grants for individual research projects and First Independent Research Support and Transition (FIRST) Awards.

**Deadlines:** Ongoing

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Southern Sociological Society  
Southwestern Social Science Association  
Speech Communication Association  
The Institute for Management Sciences

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