



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

FY 2018 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS for SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION & RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate an increase of at least **\$2 billion above the FY 2017 appropriated level for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)** in FY 2018.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the world leader in basic biomedical, behavioral, social, and population science research, fostering discoveries that enhance the health and well-being of Americans. A \$2 billion increase above the FY 2017 appropriated level, in addition to funds included in the *21st Century Cures Act* for targeted initiatives in FY 2018, will help ensure that NIH-funded research can continue to improve our nation's health and enhance our competitiveness.

To be truly transformative, NIH will need to continue to embrace research from a wide range of scientific disciplines, including the **social and behavioral sciences**. NIH supports basic and applied social and behavioral science research across its 27 institutes and centers (ICs) in recognition of the value these disciplines add to preventing and treating most diseases, disorders, and conditions. The NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) coordinates trans-NIH activities in the social and behavioral sciences.



Social and behavioral science discoveries supported by NIH have **reduced tobacco use**, possibly the biggest public health success story of the 20th century; **reduced the risk of developing type-2 diabetes** by demonstrating the impact of lifestyle changes, such as diet and regular physical activity; and **slowed the HIV/AIDS epidemic** by extending our knowledge about decision-making, drug use, and sexual behavior.

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$364 million to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** for FY 2018.

AHRQ is the only agency in the federal government with the expertise and explicit mission to fund research on improving health care at the provider level (i.e. in hospitals, medical practices, nursing homes, and other medical facilities). AHRQ-funded research provides us with the evidence, data, and tools needed to tackle some of the health care system's greatest challenges.



“Social and behavioral science” encompasses a collection of STEM disciplines engaged in the rigorous study of why and how humans behave as they do as individuals, groups and within institutions, organizations, and society. It often refers to the disciplines of and fields within anthropology, communication, demography, economics, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics, as well as countless multidisciplinary subfields.

For example, AHRQ-funded research has been instrumental in **reducing hospital-acquired conditions by 17% in five years**, translating to 87,000 lives and nearly \$20 billion in health care costs saved; identifying strategies to help primary care practices **cope with the challenges of the opioid epidemic**; and helping doctors make better decisions and improve patients' health by taking advantage of **electronic health records and other IT advances**.

Without AHRQ, important research on topics like **reducing waste and unnecessary costs, improving access to health care, and getting the best treatments into the hands of providers** would fall through the cracks.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$7.8 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and \$170 million for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in FY 2018.

As the country's leading health protection and surveillance agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works with state, local, and international partners to keep Americans safe and healthy. CDC relies on insights from the social and behavioral sciences to understand the **effects of behavioral, social, and cultural factors on public health** and to rigorously **evaluate public health interventions, policies, and programs**. The CDC is also home to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which collects critical **data on all aspects of our health care system** through data cooperatives and surveys that serve as the **gold standard for data collection around the world**.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

COSSA joins the Friends of IES in urging Congress to appropriate \$670 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) in FY 2018.

Housed within the U.S. Department of Education, IES provides the nation with **critical statistics, research, and evaluation that improve education policy and practice**. IES-supported research has led to the development of **early interventions for improving child outcomes, generated and validated assessment measures for use with children, and led to the creation of the "What Works Clearinghouse" for education research**, which catalogs interventions that work and identifies those that don't. It allows us to understand trends in student populations, as well as in schools and universities. Still, many research questions remain, such as how best to prepare teachers and how to understand the opportunities afforded by advances in technology in the classroom.



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION & FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate a total of \$78.7 million for the Department of Education's International Education and Foreign Language programs in FY 2018.

The Department of Education's Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs play an active role in keeping American students at the forefront of global education. These programs nurture cadres of college graduates with the cultural and language proficiencies needed to serve in government, including at the Department of Defense, Department of State, and federal intelligence agencies. Investment in international education and language programs helps to ensure America remains competitive within the global community.

Within the \$78.7 million requested, COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$70.15 million to Title VI** and **\$8.56 million to Fulbright-Hays**.



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