Advocating for Social Science from Home
TAKE ACTION

Advocacy | Policy Statements & Testimony | Funding Updates | Take Action

ACTION ALERT 3/3/17: Tell Congress to Protect Social Science Funding

Why get involved in advocacy?

COSASSA works hard every day to communicate the importance of social and behavioral science research to policymakers. Rarely, the most powerful stories come from people who can speak from experience about how it's like to apply for a federal grant, conduct research, or watch as their findings reach (or fail to reach) a broader audience.

In a survey conducted by the Congressional Management Foundation, 64 percent of Congressional staff said their constituent visits to have “some” or “a lot” of influence on an undecided member of Congress—more than any other strategy for communicating with Congress. And social and behavioral scientists are no exception to this rule. They bring invaluable expertise on a wealth of important issues facing our nation.

Educating policymakers about social and behavioral science research—and its contributions to sound public policy—is especially important because these sciences are not always well understood on Capitol Hill or in some federal agencies.

Get Started

Find your Member of Congress.

**HOUSE**

Once you have identified your delegation, you can do a little background research to aid in your advocacy efforts. You might want to find out what committees and subcommittees they serve on or if they belong to any relevant task forces or informal groups of members formed around issues of mutual interest. Each Member of Congress maintains a website where you can find detailed information on their legislative priorities and policy positions.

**SENATE**

Sign up for Action Alerts.

Subscribe to COSASSA’s Advocacy List to be alerted to opportunities to take action in support of social and behavioral science.

Read our Advocacy Handbook.

Ways to Get Involved

Participate in the 2017 Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day.
Engaging from Home

- Get active in your professional societies.
- Consider joining other groups focused on advocacy.
- Connect with your GR professionals.
- Engage your elected officials directly:
  - District meetings
  - Emails/phone calls
  - Town hall meetings
  - Respond to COSSA Action Alerts
ACTION ALERT: Tell Congress to Protect Social Science Funding

March 30, 2017

Use the tool below to write to your Members of Congress and tell them why you support funding for social science research. You can share the important role research in the social sciences play in making our population healthier, our democracy fairer, our nation safer, and our economy stronger and ask them to support funding for social and behavioral science. Our TAKE ACTION page has all the resources you need to get started, including brand-new talking points, state fact sheets, and one-pagers.

Tell Congress to Protect Social Science Funding!

- Please personalize the letter below by explaining why you care about federal support for social science.
- You may wish to talk about your research or field of study or about the local impacts of federal R&D investment in social science on your community.
- For help crafting your message, use the resources available at www.cossa.org/advocacy/take-action.

Personalize it: A personalized constituent message is one of the most effective ways to influence lawmakers.

As a constituent who feels strongly about the countless contributions the social sciences make to the lives of all Americans, I am writing to ask that you protect the federal agencies that support social and behavioral science research throughout the appropriations process. So many of the immediate challenges facing our nation will require solutions based on sound, reliable science. Federally-supported scientific research—including social and behavioral science research—provides an evidence base that you and your colleagues can use to produce science-backed strategies for addressing issues of national importance, such as crime prevention, health care for the underserved, the safety of our troops, early childhood education, and improved efficiency of American businesses, to name a few. Every day, insights from the social and behavioral sciences help make people’s lives better, both here in the U.S. and around the world, from slowing the spread of Ebola in West Africa.

enter your email address

Next
District Meetings

• Timing: Recess is an excellent time for a district meeting.

• Staff: District staff do not generally handle legislative portfolios – they are experts on what is going on in the district and local impacts of federal programs (DC staff work on specific policy issues).

• Message: District meetings are good opportunities to discuss the impacts of federal research funding on the local economy – to put a constituent face on a topic.
Social and Behavioral Science Research:
Essential to keeping America competitive, prosperous and safe

Ten Recommendations for the 45th President of the United States

December 2016
Following Up

• Find organic ways to **stay in touch** – local connections are always appreciated.
• **Be a resource** – Send updates about your research.
• Forward the occasional **press release or news story** highlighting research in the district.
• **Following a meeting** – Always send a follow-up email thanking them for the time and provide any additional information or answers to questions that came up during the meeting. **Begin to build a rapport.**
Changing the Conversation

• New public-facing website launched last month
  o www.whysocialscience.com
• Recent blogs from:
  o National Academy of Sciences
  o American Anthropological Association
  o National Institutes of Health
  o Congressman Dan Lipinski
  o Society for Personality and Social Psychology
MARCH FOR SCIENCE
EARTH DAY
APRIL 22, 2017

www.cossa.org/event/march-for-science
www.marchforscience.com
Questions?