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Cossa Headlines
A monthly look at what's new and noteworthy in social science policy

The webinar will begin momentarily.
Your line has been muted.
This Month’s HEADLINES

This Month’s DEEP DIVE: How and why to advocate from home

This Month’s HOMEWORK: What you can do this month
This Month’s Experts

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Membership Organizations
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
Academic Studies Association
American Association of Geographers
American Council of Learned Societies
American Evaluation Association
American Historical Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of American Law Schools
Association of Research Libraries
Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences
Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

Colleges & Universities
Arizona State University
Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Fielding Graduate University
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Stanford University
Texas A&M University
The Ohio State University
University of Arizona
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder

Centers & Institutes
American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Political and Social Science
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NORC at the University of Chicago
RTI International
Social Science Research Council

Affiliates
SAGE Publishing
Quick Questions

Use the chat box to ask a question.

More opportunities for Q&A at the end.
This Month’s Headlines

CONGRESS
• Budget Bill Passed; Congress Leaves for Recess
  • More: www.cossa.org/tag/fy-2020
• OSTP Director Appears Before Appropriators

EXECUTIVE BRANCH
• No Citizenship Question on the 2020 Census
  • More: www.cossa.org/tag/2020-census
• NIH Delays Clinical Trials Policy Enforcement
  • More: https://osp.od.nih.gov/2019/07/24/registration-results-reporting-basic-experimental-studies/
• Evidence Act Guidance Released
• NSF Releases Dear Colleague Letter on Research Protection

COMMUNITY
• Rush Holt Retires as AAAS CEO
• New National Academies Reports on Adolescence, Military Family Readiness
  • More: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/DBASSE/Reports/index.htm

COSSA
• American Academy of Political and Social Science Answers “Why Social Science?”
  • More: www.whysocialscience.com
• Save the Date for Advocacy Day 2020: March 30-31
  • More: www.cossa.org/event/2020-advocacy-day
• Share your stories with COSSA
  • More: www.cossa.org/share-your-story

Subscribe for more news: www.cossa.org/washington-update
Quick Questions

Use the chat box to ask a question.

More opportunities for Q&A at the end.
Advocating from Home

- Why is advocating from home is important?
- Why should you act now?
- Where do I start?
What are the goals for grassroots social science advocacy?

1. To advocate in **support of federal funding** for research and sound science policies.

2. To inform policy makers and their staff about the value of social science research and the **critical role of federal support**.

3. To **become resources** that elected officials and staff can depend on.

These might sound familiar...
Advocacy is important!

If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the Washington office have on his/her decision?

- In-Person Issue Visits from Constituents: 94% (A Lot of Positive Influence)
- Contact from Constituents' Reps: 94% (A Lot of Positive Influence)
- Individualized Email Messages: 92% (A Lot of Positive Influence)
- Individualized Postal Letters: 88% (Some Positive Influence)
- Local Editorial Featuring Issue Pending: 87% (Some Positive Influence)
- Comments During Telephone Town Hall: 87% (Some Positive Influence)
- Phone Calls: 84% (Some Positive Influence)
- Letter to the Editor Featuring Your Boss: 84% (Some Positive Influence)
- Visit From a Lobbyist: 83% (Some Positive Influence)
- Form Email Messages: 56% (Some Positive Influence)

How helpful is it for messages from constituents to include the following? How frequently do messages from constituents include the following?

- Information about the impact the bill would have on the district or state: 91% (Very Helpful/Helpful)
- Constituent’s reasons for supporting/ opposing the bill or issue: 90% (Very Helpful/Helpful)
- Specific request or “ask”: 88% (Very Helpful/Helpful)
- Personal story related to the bill or issue: 79% (Very Helpful/Helpful)

(n = 190-192)
Source: Congressional Management Foundation 2015 survey of congressional staff, including Chiefs of Staff, Communications Directors, Legislative Directors, and Legislative Assistants.
Many ways to advocate

Come to Washington

Respond to Action Alerts
Invite elected officials to your institution/class
Meet in state/district office
Write a letter to your local newspaper
Be a resource for reporters

Tweet about science policy issues
Contribute articles to your society newsletter
Teach or mentor in your community
Involve students in advocacy
Is meeting in a Congressional office at home different than visiting D.C.?

Absolutely.

• Members of Congress are often less busy at home and more focused on engaging with constituents.
• You can continue to develop the relationship you started with a meeting in DC (or vice versa).
• Members and staff can see firsthand how federal dollars are being used (TIP: Invite them to your lab or classroom – they LOVE interacting with students).
• You have more options than a regular meeting (more on that later).
• They can get positive press.
What exactly makes in-district meetings different?

**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.
Why is it important to advocate now?

Maintaining Momentum from Advocacy Day + A Critical Time for Policymaking + August Recess = Advocating from Home
Status of Social Science Advocacy Day Asks

Ask #1
Raise the Caps **DONE!!**

Ask #2
Support Social Science Agencies in FY 2020 **They’re working on it...**

Ask #3
Use Us As a Resource **Always important!!!**
Let’s get started!

• Think about your options

• Maybe...
  • Set up meeting with Congressional staff in district offices
  • Attend a town hall meeting
  • Show policymakers where science happens

• Write for *Why Social Science?*
Other Possibilities

• Engage with local government.
  • Attend city council meetings and raise your issue.
  • Offer to serve as local expert to councils, boards, etc. (e.g. The Lab @ DC, http://thelab.dc.gov/).
  • LISTEN to local concerns.
  • Run for office!

• Teach or mentor in your community (e.g. senior centers, civic associations, Girl Scout troops)

• Write to your local newspaper; be a resource for reporters.

• Engage on social media about science policy issues.
Ask

• What outcome are you looking for?

• What’s your advocacy comfort level?

• Where do you live?

• How much time do you have?

Act

• Contact the right people

• Share why social science matters in your community!

• Settle on your message
Settle On Your Message

Make sure your message is...

① Relevant

② Timely

③ Contains tangible next steps

Use COSSA Materials!
Homework (part 1)

- Contact the right people!
- Share your Social Science Story with your community, policymakers, and COSSA!
Let’s hear from you!

If using computer microphone: raise your hand!
   Step 1: select “participants”
   Step 2: select “raise hand”
       (may be in sidebar)
   Step 3: after you’re unmuted, ask your question!

If using telephone audio/microphone: put your question in the chat box!
Homework (part 2)

- Your Advocacy-At-Home Next Step

- Mark Your Calendars!
  - COSSA Social Science Advocacy Day 2020 – March 30 and 31st

- Share Your Stories with COSSA (and tell your friends)
  - www.cossa.org/share-your-story

- Visit COSSA’s Action Center
  - www.cossa.org/advocacy/take-action
Next Month:

- September’s HEADLINES

- DEEP DIVE: NSF’s SBE Directorate with Arthur Lupia, Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate at the National Science Foundation

Miss last month’s Headlines?
www.cossa.org/resources/headlines
Find this useful?

- **Tune in** each month – 2nd Thursday

- Tell your colleagues to **sign up for COSSA Member Messages and Alerts**—MEMBERS ONLY (email Julia at jmilton@cossa.org)

- Encourage other organizations and universities to **Join COSSA** (email Wendy at wnaus@cossa.org)

- **Send us your ideas** for DEEP DIVES (email Camille at chosman@cossa.org)
Camille Hosman
Assistant Director of Government Relations
Email: chosman@cossa.org

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