



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Analysis of the Senate FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill | September 23, 2019

The Senate bill providing funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, as well as other related agencies, for fiscal year (FY) 2020 has faced an uphill battle and still faces an uncertain fate, even as there are only a few working days left until the end of FY 2019. This bill contains annual funding proposals for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Education (ED), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), among other federal departments and agencies.

At a Glance...

- **The Senate bill includes a total of \$42.084 billion for NIH in FY 2020**, a \$3 billion or 7.7 percent increase over the FY 2019 level and \$1 billion more than the amount proposed in the House bill.
- **The bill includes \$7.5 billion for the CDC**, an increase of \$180.5 million from FY 2019, more than the amount proposed by the Administration but less than that proposed by the House. Funding for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) would be flat.
- **The Senate bill would provide AHRQ with \$256 million** for FY 2020, a cut of 24.3 percent from FY 2019 and in line with the Administration's request.
- **The Senate bill would provide the BLS with \$615.5 million**, an increase of \$500,000 from FY 2019 but below both the Administration's and the House's proposals.
- **Within the Department of Education, the bill would provide \$615.5 million to IES**, which would be flat with its FY 2019 appropriation and 18 percent above the FY 2020 funding request from the Administration.

Unlike most appropriations bills followed by COSSA, this year's LHHS bill has not been marked up in either subcommittee or full committee; instead, in the interest of time as well as in the wake of disagreement over how to handle controversial amendments ("policy riders"), text of the LHHS bill has been released publicly and Senate leadership has opted to bring this bill straight to the Senate floor for consideration. The bill hit another snag last week after the Senate failed to pass a procedural motion to end debate on the legislation. The door remains open for the Senate to consider the bill, but at the time of this writing, there is no indication of when that might be.

With FY 2019 coming to an end on September 30, the more pressing issue for the Senate is to pass a stop-gap funding bill, known as a Continuing Resolution (CR), to keep the government open while FY 2020 spending is finalized. The House passed a CR on September 19 to keep the government open until Thanksgiving and the Senate is expected to take up the measure this week.

Stay tuned to [COSSA's coverage](#) for developments.

Summarized below are the Senate Appropriations Committee’s proposals for the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Department of Education.

The bill and Committee’s full report can be found [here](#).

National Institutes of Health

The Senate bill includes a total of \$42.084 billion for NIH in FY 2020, a \$3 billion or 7.7 percent increase over the FY 2019 level. This amount is \$7.7 billion above the President’s request for FY 2020 and \$1 billion more than the amount proposed by the House.

Under the Senate bill, each of NIH’s institutes and centers (ICs) would receive healthy increases above the FY 2019 levels (see the chart below for IC details). Like previous years, the Senate bill rejects attempts by the Trump Administration to create a new institute by transferring the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) into NIH.

Bill language and the Committee report accompanying the bill provide specific funding allocations for several of NIH’s major programs and initiatives, including:

- \$2.82 billion to the National Institute on Aging for **Alzheimer’s disease research**, an increase of \$350 million.
- \$500 million for the **Brain Research through Application of Innovative Neuro-technologies (BRAIN) initiative**, an increase of \$71 million.
- \$500 million for the **All of Us Precision Medicine Initiative**, an increase of \$161 million over FY 2019.

Noted below is relevant report language included in the Office of the NIH Director section of the Senate report.

Clinical Trials Policy

Expressing support for the NIH’s announcement to delay the implementation of certain registration and reporting requirements for basic experimental studies with humans, the Senate report urges NIH to continue working with the basic research community and directs NIH to report to Congress no less than 60 days prior of any proposed changes to these requirements. The language acknowledges the concerns raised by the basic science community over the last few years. See COSSA’s [coverage](#) for details.

Directors Advisory Committees

The Senate report expresses concern that NIH institute and center advisory councils are not following legal requirement that they include two representatives from the fields of public health and behavioral or social sciences, and “urges compliance with this statute and requests a report on the fields of public health and behavioral and social sciences that are represented on each advisory committee.” This language is identical to language included in the House version of the bill.

Foreign Threats to Research

The report expresses concern about foreign threats to the U.S. research enterprise and directs the NIH to take investigative action. As such, NIH is directed to allocate no less than \$5 million for partnerships between NIH and the Department of Health and Human Services Office of National Security (ONS).

Harassment Policies

Like other federal agencies, the NIH has taken measures in recent months to respond to calls to enhance funding agency oversight and response to claims of sexual and other forms of harassment within the research community. The Senate Committee commends NIH for steps it has taken to date but suggests that “NIH must play a more active role in changing the culture that has long perpetuated the problem.”

The report continues:

“The Committee directs NIH to require institutions to notify it when key personnel named on an NIH grant award are removed because of harassment concerns. While it is essential for NIH to preserve the confidentiality of the individuals in these cases, the Committee directs NIH to integrate information about adjudicated cases regarding grantees and applicants into the grant award-making process, making clear there are significant ramifications for perpetrators. The Committee also directs NIH to support research in the areas identified in the [\[National Academies\]](#) Report, including the psychology underlying harassment and the experiences and outcomes of diverse groups when subjected to harassment. Additionally, the Committee directs NIH to collaborate with the National Academies to develop best practices for developing more diverse and inclusive cultures in the grantee research environments, including training individuals in institutions that receive NIH funds to recognize and address harassment, and evaluating the efficacy of various harassment training programs.”

In addition, notable report language is peppered throughout sections detailing individual ICs:

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

The Senate report highlights the issue of distress in cancer patients, noting that nearly 50 percent of all cancer patients are afflicted with some form of distress. The Committee remains concerned about unaddressed psychosocial needs that are adversely impacting cancer care and encourages NCI to ensure that all its designated cancer centers are addressing distress as part of each patient’s treatment.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

The Senate report highlights the importance of population research across various aspects of maternal and child health. The Committee urges NICHD to “reaffirm its commitment to supporting population research, as well as the NICHD Population Dynamics Branch, as part of its revised 2020-2024 strategic plan. However, the new NIICHD strategic plan was [released](#) on September 18 and does not include this directive from the Senate.

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2019	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
National Institutes of Health	39084	34367.6	41084.0	42084.0	7.7%	22.5%	-2.4%
National Cancer Institute	6143.9	5246.7	6444.2	6351.9	3.4%	21.1%	1.5%
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	3488.3	3002.7	3658.8	3694.8	5.9%	23.0%	-1.0%
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	461.8	397.5	484.4	486.8	5.4%	22.5%	-0.5%
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	2029.8	1897.2	2129.0	2155.3	6.2%	13.6%	-1.2%
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	2274.4	2026.0	2385.6	2490.5	9.5%	22.9%	-4.2%
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	5523.3	4754.4	5808.3	5937.8	7.5%	24.9%	-2.2%
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	2872.8	2472.8	3033.2	2969.1	3.4%	20.1%	2.2%
<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	1506.5	1269.7	1580.1	1587.3	5.4%	25.0%	-0.5%
National Eye Institute	796.5	685.6	835.5	840.2	5.5%	22.5%	-0.6%
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	774.7	733.4	812.6	815.7	5.3%	11.2%	-0.4%
National Institute on Aging	3083.4	2654.1	3286.1	3606.0	16.9%	35.9%	-8.9%
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	605.1	520.8	635.6	637.1	5.3%	22.3%	-0.2%
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	474.4	408.4	497.6	500.3	5.5%	22.5%	-0.5%
National Institute of Nursing Research	163.0	140.3	171.0	172.4	5.8%	22.9%	-0.8%
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	525.6	452.4	551.3	556.0	5.8%	22.9%	-0.9%
National Institute on Drug Abuse	1419.8	1296.4	1489.2	1490.5	5.0%	15.0%	-0.1%
National Institute of Mental Health	1870.3	1630.4	1961.7	2076.2	11.0%	27.3%	-5.5%
National Human Genome Research Institute	575.6	495.4	603.7	608.0	5.6%	22.7%	-0.7%
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	389.5	335.2	408.5	411.5	5.7%	22.7%	-0.7%
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health	146.5	126.1	153.6	154.7	5.6%	22.7%	-0.7%
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities	314.7	270.9	341.2	331.0	5.2%	22.2%	3.1%
John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences	78.1	67.2	84.9	82.3	5.4%	22.5%	3.1%
National Library of Medicine	442.0	380.5	463.6	465.8	5.4%	22.4%	-0.5%
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences	806.4	694.1	845.8	849.2	5.3%	22.3%	-0.4%
National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality*	0.0	256.0	0.0	0.0	n/a	-100.0%	n/a

* Administration's proposed reorganization

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Senate bill would provide the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with a total of \$7.5 billion for FY 2020, an increase of \$180.5 million from FY 2019, more than the amount proposed by the Administration but less than that proposed by the House. This amount includes \$7.5 billion in discretionary funding and \$854.3 million in transfers from the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the federal statistical agency housed within CDC, would receive flat funding of \$160.4 million, in line with the amount proposed by the House and rejecting the Administration’s proposed cut. The committee report notes the difficulty in collecting data from non-contiguous states and territories through the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) but does not provide funding to explore new ways to gather such data. The report also urges the CDC to support state efforts to collect data on eating disorders through the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2019	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	7282.4	6531.8	8203.0	7462.9	2.5%	14.3%	9.9%
HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB Prevention	1132.3	1318.1	1335.2	1270.1	12.2%	-3.6%	5.1%
Chronic Disease Prevention, Health Promotion	1187.8	951.3	1350.6	1151.8	-3.0%	21.1%	17.3%
National Center for Health Statistics	160.4	155.0	160.4	160.4	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%
Environmental Health	209.4	157.0	243.4	211.4	1.0%	34.6%	15.1%
Injury Prevention and Control	648.6	628.8	697.6	663.6	2.3%	5.5%	5.1%
Occupational Safety and Health	336.3	190.0	346.3	338.8	0.7%	78.3%	2.2%
Global Health	488.6	457.0	513.6	595.8	21.9%	30.4%	-13.8%

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Although the Senate joins with the House in rejecting the Administration’s repeated proposal to move the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) into the National Institutes of Health, the Senate bill would otherwise accept the Administration’s requested funding levels for AHRQ’s programs and research. The Senate bill would provide AHRQ with \$256 million for FY 2020, a cut of \$82 million or 24.3 percent from FY 2019. While the bill acknowledges the impending expiration of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Trust Fund, which has transferred over \$100 million above its appropriated budget to AHRQ each year since 2010 to disseminate findings from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, no funds are included to make up for this shortfall. Like the President’s budget request, the Senate bill would eliminate AHRQ’s Health Information Technology (IT) portfolio and cut funding to each of AHRQ’s remaining research programs.

The committee report encourages AHRQ to consider developing a pilot or demonstration programs to “support safety net clinics in increasing health literacy and preventing diabetes with the goal of reducing long-term costs.” It also directs AHRQ to convene a technical expert panel to create malnutrition-related readmission quality measure to improve accountability for preventing malnutrition in hospitals and to undertake a study of state actions intended to improve primary care delivery.

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2019	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	338.0	256.0	358.2	256.0	-24.3%	0.0%	40.0%
Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes	196.7	130.6	215.1	130.6	-33.6%	0.0%	64.7%
Patient Safety	72.3	65.3	80.8	65.3	-9.7%	0.0%	23.7%
Health Services Research, Data, and Dissemination	96.3	57.9	105.2	57.9	-39.9%	0.0%	81.7%
Health Information Technology	16.5	0.0	16.5	0.0	-100.0%	0.0%	+\$16.5m
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force	11.6	7.4	12.6	7.4	-36.5%	0.0%	70.9%
Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys	70.0	71.8	71.8	71.8	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%

Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Senate bill would provide the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with \$615.5 million, an increase of \$500,000 from FY 2019 but below both the Administration’s requested \$655 million and the House’s proposed \$675.8 million. The bill does not appear to include any funding to plan for the agency’s upcoming relocation after its lease expires in 2022, funds that were included in both the Administration’s and House’s proposals. At the time of this writing, details on how the funding would be divided among BLS’s programs are not available.

The Senate bill includes language highlighting the need for a new cohort of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (the most recent cohort was born in the 1980s), but does not include any funding for an expansion of the survey (unlike the House bill, which would provide an additional \$10 million to fund a new cohort).

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2019	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Bureau of Labor Statistics	615.0	655.0	675.8	615.5	0.1%	-6.0%	9.8%

Department of Education

Within the Department of Education, the Senate bill would provide \$615.5 million for the **Institute of Education Sciences (IES)**, which would be 5.6 percent lower than the House’s proposal for IES, flat with its FY 2019 funding level, but 18 percent above the FY 2020 funding request from the Administration. Unlike the House proposal for IES, all accounts within the institute would be held flat with their FY 2019 funding levels, including Research, Development, and Dissemination; Regional Education Laboratories; the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); Research in Special Education; Statewide Data Systems; Assessment; and Special Education Studies and Evaluations. Notably, the Senate proposal recommends funding NCES at nearly 3 percent below the amount requested by the Administration. The Committee rejected the Administration’s proposal to eliminate the Regional Education Laboratories and Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems.

For the **International Education and Foreign Language Studies** programs, the Senate bill includes a total of \$65.1 million in funding for Domestic Programs (also known as Title VI) and \$7.1 million for Overseas Programs (also known as Fulbright-Hays). The Senate’s allocation for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays is flat compared with their FY 2019 appropriation, but is good news nonetheless, as both programs were eliminated in the President’s FY 2019

budget request. However, the Senate proposal for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays is significantly lower than the amount provided in the House bill – which proposed 23.5 percent more for the programs.

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2019	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Institute of Education Sciences	615.5	521.6	650.0	615.5	0.0%	18.0%	5.6%
Research, Development, and Dissemination	192.7	187.5	205.4	192.7	0.0%	2.8%	6.6%
National Center for Education Statistics	109.5	112.5	117.5	109.5	0.0%	-2.7%	7.3%
Regional Educational Laboratories	55.4	0.0	60.4	55.4	0.0%	+\$55.4m	9.0%
Research in Special Education	56.0	54.0	61.0	56.0	0.0%	3.7%	8.9%
Special Education Studies and Evaluations	10.8	10.8	11.7	10.8	0.0%	0.2%	8.2%
Assessment	158.7	156.7	158.7	158.7	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Statewide Data Systems	32.3	0.0	35.3	32.3	0.0%	+\$32.3m	9.4%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	72.2	0.0	89.1	72.2	0.0%	+\$72.2m	23.5%
Domestic Programs (Title VI)	65.1	0.0	80.4	65.1	0.0%	+\$65.1m	23.5%
Overseas Programs (Fulbright-Hays)	7.1	0.0	8.7	7.1	0.0%	+\$7.1m	23.2%

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