

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

1755 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • [202] 234-5703

TO: COSSA Members, Affiliates, Contributors, and Friends
FROM: Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director

COSSA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 23, 1982

Congress has returned from the Easter recess, with many Senators arriving back in Washington during the week of April 12 and most Representatives returning the week of April 19. Both Houses are moving quickly through the authorization and appropriations processes for specific budgets, and at the same time Congressional leaders and White House officials are discussing compromises in the overall budget.

Over the next several months, most of the authorizing legislation and appropriations bills will be reported out of committee and brought to floor votes in both House and Senate. COSSA will frequently be asking for help in the form of telephone calls, telegrams, and mailgrams to Members of Congress. If past experience is any guide, we will rarely have enough time to send such requests through the mails. The usual means of contact will be the telephone, and the usual turn-around time will be very short. For this we apologize in advance and ask your patience as well as your help.

As a guide in communicating with your Congressman, we are enclosing a list of all Members of the House of Representatives, showing their votes on two issues involving increased funding for the National Science Foundation last year. These were not exclusively social science funding issues, but involved R & D as a whole. For that reason, you may wish to share the information with colleagues in the natural sciences.

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COSSA is pleased to announce that the Northeastern Anthropological Association and the Southwestern Social Science Association recently voted to become COSSA affiliates.

American Anthropological Association • American Economic Association • American Historical Association • American Political Science Association

American Psychological Association • American Sociological Association • American Statistical Association

Association of American Geographers • Association of American Law Schools • Linguistic Society of America

National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation authorization in the House (H.R. 5748), which adds \$17.6 million for social and behavioral science research, was reported out of committee on April 1. It is likely that it will be brought to the floor for debate and vote in early May. It is very important to have strong bipartisan support for this authorization and it is not too early to contact your Congressmen regarding this issue. House voting records on NSF funding last year are enclosed.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee held hearings on the NSF budget on Thursday, April 15. Testifying on behalf of the entire research community was Dr. E. Margaret Burbidge, President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Burbidge was accompanied by a panel of scientists who answered questions about specific areas of research. Representing the social and behavioral sciences was Dr. F. Thomas Juster, Director, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. Copies of Dr. Juster's written testimony can be obtained by writing Priscilla Ford at COSSA. The Committee will mark up the NSF budget (S. 2349) on Tuesday, April 27.

Congressman Edward Boland (D-MA), Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, held hearings for Administration witnesses on the NSF Appropriation on April 21 and 22. The Subcommittee, and particularly Congressman Martin Sabo (D-MN), expressed great interest in the Foundation's use of funds added in FY 1982 for social and behavioral science research and asked Foundation officials how they would use additional appropriations if Congress added \$10 million for social and behavioral science research in FY 1983.

Public Health Service Reauthorization

Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the Energy and Commerce Committee, has introduced new legislation, the "Health Research Act of 1982" (H.R. 5919), which would become the basic legislation for the U.S. Public Health Service. The Public Health Service includes the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute of Mental Health.

Public Health Service Reauthorization (continued)

COSSA is working with the Committee staff to ensure that the legislation requires representation by social and behavioral scientists on the advisory committees of the various Institutes and that the legislation specifies that social and behavioral science research and training, as well as biomedical research and training, be part of the mission of the Institutes. The Subcommittee has already held hearings on the legislation. A date for the mark up is not yet scheduled.

United States Peace Academy

The Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities of the Labor and Human Resources Committee held hearings on April 21 on the bill to establish a United States Peace Academy (S. 1889). COSSA presented testimony on the role of such an academy in advancing research on peace, conflict resolution, and international politics. For copies of the testimony, please contact Priscilla Ford at the COSSA office.

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Summer Internships

COSSA would like to have one or two student interns for summer work on social and behavioral science research budgets and grass roots communications. If you have students who are willing to volunteer their time and energy either part-time or full-time, notify the COSSA office.