

# CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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TO: COSSA Members, Affiliates, Contributors and Friends

FROM: Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director

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## COSSA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 30, 1982

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The House floor vote on the NSF authorization is tentatively scheduled for May 10. Please begin to contact your Congressmen again, asking for their support of the Science and Technology Committee Bill (H.R. 5748).

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Social and behavioral science research received a vote of confidence this week in the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources when the committee increased the NSF budget authorization for Research and Related Activities by \$5 million for social, economic, and behavioral science research.

The Chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), originally proposed that the Committee authorize a budget for NSF at the level proposed by the administration. However at the April 27 mark up of the budget, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), ranking minority member of the Committee, introduced two amendments to this authorization, one to increase funding for science education by \$20 million and a second to increase funding for social, economic, and behavioral science research by \$5 million. The Committee approved an increase of \$10 million for science education and an increase of \$5 million for social science research. In the social science amendment, Senator Kennedy had the support of all Democrats on the Committee and, at a critical point, the support of two Committee Republicans, Senators Lowell Weicker (R-CT) and Robert Stafford (R-VT). In addition, a week before the budget mark up, Senator Dan Quayle (R-IND) made it clear that although he could not support an increase in the overall NSF budget, he would support a measure to increase the budget for social and behavioral science research through a reallocation of funds within Research and Related Activities. The amendment adopted by the Committee

on April 27 by a vote of 14 - 2 adds to the budget rather than reallocates funds.

A central factor in obtaining support for the Kennedy amendment to increase social science research support was the steady communication with Senators -- principally telephone calls and telegrams -- made by social scientists in the states of Committee members. A number of staff members remarked on the importance of the calls they had received from social scientists in gaining support for the Kennedy social science amendment. At this point, with the successful passage of the amendment, it would be helpful to reinforce the support the Committee extended to social science with short letters of thanks.

Given the expressed interests of members of this Committee, staff of the Labor and Human Resources Committee requested that much of the argument for increased social science research support be framed in terms of the market, business, and management uses of social, economic and behavioral science research. Among other materials prepared for this mark up, COSSA prepared briefing sheets for Committee members describing NSF sponsored social science research cited approvingly in the business press. If you have examples of market, business, and management uses of social, economic, and behavioral science research, please send them to the COSSA office so that they may be used in future communications with members of Congress.

The next step in the NSF budget authorization process in the Senate is a floor vote on the Committee's recommendations. Then, after a similar floor vote and approval of the House authorization, representatives of the Senate and the House will meet in a conference committee on this issue. It is essential that House and Senate gains in committee mark ups are not lost either in floor votes or in conference.

Other NSF legislative actions are described below.

#### Additional National Science Foundation

The Senate Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee has long been engaged in a jurisdictional dispute with the Hatch Committee on Labor and Human Resources for responsibility for the National Science Foundation authorization. This year the Subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Senator Harrison Schmitt (R-NM), held NSF hearings for outside witnesses on April 19. Subcommittee staff have indicated that the Subcommittee mark up of the NSF authorization will follow generally along the same lines as the Hatch Committee authorization and will therefore include the \$5 million add-on for social and behavioral science research. Mark up is scheduled for Monday, May 3.

Additional National Science Foundation (continued)

The first hearings on the NSF appropriation were held this past week. On April 21, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies held hearings for NSF officials. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies held similar hearings on April 22. Both subcommittees plan to hold hearings for outside witnesses in May. COSSA has requested permission to testify before both subcommittees.

Science Education

The administration's budget request for the National Science Foundation included only \$15 million for the Directorate for Science and Engineering Education. This amounts to virtual elimination of NSF's support in this area. Opposition to this move in the Congress has been strong, and the authorizing committees in both the House and the Senate, have restored funding for science education, adding \$30 million in the House and \$10 million in the Senate.

Foundation officials have defended the cuts in science education and have repeatedly said that the federal government is not in a position to promote science education effectively. Instead, John B. Slaughter, Director of the Foundation, has appointed a Commission on Pre-College Education in Mathematics, Science, and Technology to examine the problem of science education from the perspective of state and local agencies. William T. Coleman, Jr., and Cecily C. Selby are co-chairmen of the commission. Other members include:

General Lew Allen, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Air Force.  
Victoria Bergin, Associate commissioner for general education, Texas Education Agency.  
George Burnet, Jr., Chairman of nuclear engineering, Iowa State University.  
William H. Cosby, Jr., Actor and entertainer.  
Daniel J. Evans, President, Evergreen State College.  
Donald S. Fredrickson, Scholar in residence, the National Academy of Sciences.  
Patricia A. Graham, Dean-elect, Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.  
Robert E. Larson, President, Systems Control Inc.  
Gerald D. Laubach, President, Pfizer Inc.  
Katharine P. Layton, Mathematics, Beverly Hills High School.  
Ruth B. Love, General superintendent, Chicago Board of Education.  
Arturo Madrid, President, National Chicano Council on Higher Education.

Science Education (continued)

Frederick Mosteller, Chairman of health policy and management at Harvard University's School of Public Health.  
Robert W. Parry, president, American Chemical Society, and professor of chemistry at the University of Utah.  
Benjamin F. Payton, President, Tuskegee Institute.  
Herbert A. Simon, Professor of computer science and of psychology at Carnegie-Mellon University.

Social and behavioral scientists are represented on the commission by Drs. Cosby, Graham, Love, Mosteller and Simon.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies held hearings on April 29 on the NEH budget. Chairman William Bennett testified on the Endowment's budget. On Friday, May 7, the Subcommittee will hold hearings for outside witnesses. COSSA has sent letters to the chairmen of both House and Senate appropriations subcommittees for NEH.

National Institute of Education

The Director of the National Institute of Education, Edward Curran, has prepared an agenda for NIE research support. This agenda makes \$39 million (or 73% of the NIE budget) available for competitive proposals through RFP's and research grants. The Working Coalition for NIE, under the direction of David Florio, is preparing a review of the research agenda and will provide comments and suggestions on the plan to Mr. Curran and Robert Sweet, Deputy Director of NIE. Copies of the NIE planning document are available from Priscilla Ford at the COSSA office.