

**HOUSE NSF BILL INCREASES RESEARCH AT EXPENSE OF MANAGEMENT**

In passing the FY 1997 VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations bill on June 26, the House of Representatives accepted an amendment offered by Rep. Robert Walker (R-PA) to increase funding for NSF's research account by \$9.1 million and to reduce funding for the salaries and expenses account by a similar amount. The vote on the Walker amendment was 245-170, mirroring the vote on the Lofgren amendment to NSF's authorization bill that passed the House on May 30 (see *Update*, June 10).

During debate on the amendment, Walker, chairman of the Science Committee, argued that the Appropriations Committee had ignored the authorization bill he shepherded through the House. His amendment, he asserted, would make the appropriation bill resemble the earlier legislation. Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI) echoed his chairman, suggesting that "at issue is the role of the authorizing committee." Walker and the Basic Research Subcommittee Chair, Rep. Steve Schiff (R-NM), also contended that the authorizers were providing NSF with a slight cut in management this year and would then hold that account level in following years. By contrast, they asserted the Clinton administration, although favoring an increase this year, would decimate NSF with much larger cuts than the \$9.1 million beginning in FY 1998. Walker did not think reducing \$9.1 million in management expenses would be difficult for NSF, and noted that the authorization bill contains his suggestion to eliminate one directorate.

The chair of the Appropriations subcommittee that drafted the bill, Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA), joined Reps. Louis Stokes (D-OH) and George Brown (D-CA) in opposing the Walker amendment. They maintained that such a cut would punish a productive and effective agency that spent only 4 percent of its funding on salaries and management. They argued

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**NIH BIG WINNER IN HOUSE LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

On the heels of a 5.7 percent increase for Fiscal Year 1996, the National Institutes of Health received a 6.9 percent boost in its funding from the FY 1997 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill approved by the House on July 12. The bill is the product of Rep. John Porter, a longtime NIH champion who chairs the House Appropriations Subcommittee that funds these agencies.

The bill allocated NIH with \$12.7 billion for FY 1997, a 6.5 percent or \$371 million increase over the President's request and \$820 million increase over FY 1996. According to the report accompanying the bill "[t]his funding level indicates the very high priority that the Committee places on the activities of NIH . . . NIH is the world's leading biomedical research institution; its investments in research save lives and reduce health care costs while creating jobs and economic growth in the global economy."

Additionally, the bill provided a \$90 million initial funding level for the construction of a new clinical center at NIH, bringing the overall increase for NIH to 6.9 percent increase in FY 1997. "The Committee feels a dual responsibility to support both extramural research and the construction of the clinical center and anticipates that all the research mechanisms and areas the NIH supports will share in the increases provided."

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## MARRETT: DIRECTORATE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Cora Marrett, the first Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) at the National Science Foundation, is scheduled to return to the University of Wisconsin in August. Speaking to reporters at a valedictory press conference, Marrett said the Directorate has made a difference in the "recognition of the importance and centrality of the social, behavioral and economic sciences" in the National Science Foundation's activities. The Directorate has made these disciplines more visible and they have been "involved in everything." The Foundation has benefitted from the Directorate's existence, she said.

Looking back at her tenure, Marrett remarked that her goal was to "enhance connections" among fields, methods, sectors, and nations in promoting science. Leading three units within the SBE directorate -- research, science resource studies, and international programs -- she sought to link the directorate to the many multi-disciplinary endeavors NSF undertakes. At the same time, she tried to develop initiatives for the SBE sciences that would provide, within the Foundation and to the outside, the notion that these sciences could provide important research results for science and the nation.

Marrett cited the Human Capital Initiative as a multi-disciplinary effort within SBE to study the

development and use of skills in society and how those skills related to development in schools and the workplace. The concept of human capital, bred in economics, and recently latched onto by psychologists, has provided research to illuminate how societies foster productive citizens. As part of her connections strategy, Marrett has induced the Biological Sciences Directorate to examine a piece of this puzzle -- the relationship of genetic conditions and health. NSF's Mathematics and Statistics program has also been brought on board to help develop models for human capital interactions.

Another example Marrett noted was the National Consortium for Research on Violence. Generated by a National Academy of Sciences report, the idea to establish a major NSF supported effort to systematically examine the problem of violence, without connection to a federal agency's mission, was a significant step. In addition, the idea of utilizing a Consortia of individuals, rather than a Center in one place, provided an innovative research team design.

Connecting with industry, Marrett supported a program called Transformations to Quality Organizations (TQO). With financial support from major companies like Proctor and Gamble, Federal Express, Motorola and others, NSF-chosen grantees are examining what enhances effective quality practices in organizations and how organizations move from being ineffective to effective. The directorate's dissemination efforts will be aided by the American Society for Quality Control.

Responding to a question about the future of the long-term data bases in the SBE sciences, Marrett discussed them as part of the infrastructure of science. Other sciences may rely on physical equipment and facilities, but for the SBE sciences the data bases are "core research platforms" for facilitating research and remain part of NSF's plans. These SBE data bases serve unique research and education purposes, Marrett added.

The search for Marrett's replacement continues. Asked about the report language in the House authorization bill calling for the elimination of a directorate, with SBE the suggested target, Marrett noted that it certainly would not be a major cost saving device, especially if the programs continue. Her position "would definitely be filled," Marrett said.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an advocacy organization for federal support for the social and behavioral sciences, was founded in 1981 and stands alone in Washington in representing the full range of social and behavioral scientists. *Update* is published 22 times per year. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$65; institutional subscriptions, \$130, overseas mail, \$130. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525, Fax: (202) 842-2788.

## HOUSE FUNDS LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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For the second year in a row, the House eliminated the consolidated appropriation for AIDS research. The report said that "the funds allocated for AIDS should be spent in a manner fully consistent with the AIDS research plan developed by the Office of AIDS Research (OAR) and expects the Director of NIH to use full authority of his office to ensure that his occurs." OAR Director Dr. William Paul and NIH Director Harold Varmus are provided joint transfer authority to "reallocate up to three percent of funds designated for AIDS research . . . subject to normal programming procedures."

The Committee, however, noted its "support for the OAR, its leadership, and its coordinated budget planning process." OAR is expected to maintain its current structure and responsibilities, "including the allocation of an emergency discretionary fund." Additionally, the OAR Director, in concert with the NIH Director, is encouraged to implement the recommendations made by the recent NIH AIDS Report. Because AIDS "is spreading most rapidly among African Americans and other at-risk minority populations, adolescents, and women," OAR is urged to carefully monitor these changes to ensure that "the research plan includes objectives and strategies to respond to the demographic changes in a timely fashion."

In dissenting views, panel Democrats noted their objections to the Subcommittee not providing "specific funding for AIDS research through a single appropriation for the OAR as provided for in the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act and as requested by the President." The Minority members further noted that the NIH AIDS Report made recommendations that "underscore the inherent value of the OAR as the body at NIH with the authority over the AIDS budget."

The Committee expressed its approval of the establishment of a research training task force by the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR). OBSSR is encouraged to work with the institutes, centers and divisions at NIH to develop small grants programs for young investigators such as

B/START (Behavioral Science Track Awards for Rapid Transition), or other mechanisms determined appropriate.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) received \$631.9 million in funding from the House for FY 1997, an increase of \$28.3 million above the President's request and \$37.4 million increase over the FY 1996 level. The report lauded NICHD on its "aggressive effort to reduce sudden infant death syndrome" and its demographic research program. The Committee also cited NICHD's recent demographic research initiatives which have contributed "knowledge about the role of fathers in families, the effects of family change on children, the causes of out-of-wedlock childbearing, and the determinants and consequences of immigration." It further noted that the information derived from these initiatives "are important to policy makers at all levels" and encouraged the Institute to "continue to support demographic research and data."

The House bill included \$484.5 million for the National Institute on Aging (NIA), an increase of \$21.0 million over the President's request and \$30.8 million over the FY 1996 funding level. The Committee encouraged the NIA, "as part of its effort to ensure the future supply of highly trained research personnel," to consider supporting "an initiative such as B/START aimed at younger behavioral science researchers." Additionally, the Committee also encouraged NIA to continue its research in the areas of demography and population, epidemiology, minority aging, women and aging, and the burden of care of Alzheimer's disease.

The National Institute on Nursing received a funding level of \$59.7 million, an increase of \$2.7 million above the President's request and \$3.9 million over current spending.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) received a funding level of \$212.0 million, an increase of \$9.4 million above the amount requested by the President and \$13.7 million increase over FY 1996. NIAAA was encouraged to continue its efforts in studying the effects of moderate drinking, including "studies investigating the responsible behavior of moderate consumers which could be helpful for the development of new alcohol education programs." The Committee also noted its

continued interest in Project MATCH, the NIAAA's clinical trial of patient-treatment matching and treatment effectiveness. NIAAA is also encouraged to "consider an initiative to support junior behavioral researchers, such as B/START."

The bill funded the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at a level of \$487.3 million, an increase of \$21.0 over the President's request and \$29.2 million increase over last year's level. The Committee noted that "behavioral research is important to solving problems of drug abuse and addiction, and that behavioral interventions are the most frequently administered treatments for drug addiction in some cases, the only available treatment." NIDA is commended for "its basic and clinical behavioral science activities aimed at better identifying those at risk for drug abuse and developing effective approaches for breaking the cycle of addiction. The Committee also encouraged NIDA's HIV/AIDS initiatives because of the "increasing link between HIV infection and drug use and related behaviors." Additionally, NIDA was commended for its efforts to increase the number of social work researchers conducting drug abuse research, for its "town meetings, and its efforts to disseminate research findings in a timely manner."

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) funded at \$701.2 million, received an increase of \$30.0 million over the amount requested by the President and \$40.7 million above its FY 1996 funding level. The Committee, in its understanding "that much basic behavioral research can be brought to bear on the most serious mental disorders," encouraged NIMH "to develop mechanisms to build a generation of basic behavioral researchers who are sensitive to clinical issues." NIMH is commended for its funding of social work research development centers and its support of the development of "a behavioral science research plan aimed at reducing depression, schizophrenia, and other severe mood and anxiety disorders."

The spending bill also included \$2.2 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This sum is \$75.1 million above last year's level but \$52.2 million less than the President's request. The Committee noted that the increase above the FY 1996 level is intended for AIDS prevention and education, prevention health services block grant,

chronic and environmental disease prevention, breast and cervical cancer screening, infectious disease, lead poisoning prevention, and crime bill activities.

The Committee provided \$40.5 million to the CDC's National Center for Injury Control and Prevention (NCIPC) program, a sum that is \$2.6 million below both the 1996 level and the Administration's request. Additionally, the bill contained a limitation to prohibit the CDC "from engaging in any activities to advocate or promote gun control. The CDC may need to collect data on the incidence of gun related violence, but the Committee does not believe that it is the role of the CDC to advocate or promote policies to advance gun control initiatives, or to discourage responsible private gun ownership. The Committee expects research in this area to be objective and grants to be awarded through an impartial peer review process."

The NCIPC collects and analyzes data regarding a wide range of injuries including motor vehicle crashes, fires, drownings, falls, poisonings, suicide and homicide.

The full House rejected (by a vote of 158 for to 263 against) an amendment by Reps. Nita Lowey (D-NY), Michael Castle (R-DE) and Charles Schumer (D-NY) which would have reversed an amendment successfully authored by Rep. Jay Dickey (R-AR) during the full committee's consideration. The Dickey amendment reduced the NCIPC's appropriation by \$2.6 million and increased the appropriation for the area health education centers by a like amount.

The report encouraged CDC to work with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to convene a multidisciplinary review to (1) reassess and characterize the problem of injury in the U.S.; (2) describe, assess and evaluate the response of public and private agencies, especially the CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, to the recommendations of IOM's *Injury in America* and subsequent reports; and (3) make recommendations intended to further develop the field and to reduce the burden of injury in the U.S."

The Committee commended the CDC on its leadership efforts regarding youth violence. Noting that "suicide and suicide behavior have become a major health problem in the U.S.," the committee

called upon CDC to "extend its youth violence prevention efforts to evaluate promising interventions and prevention strategies, and disseminate information to committees about the magnitude, causes, and prevention" of the injuries resulting from suicide and suicide behavior.

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) received \$125.2 million. This is the same as the FY 1996 level and \$18.6 million below the request.

### Education and Labor Programs

In the area of graduate education, the bill does not provide separate funding for the Javits fellowships, which provide doctoral study support in the humanities and social sciences. It did, however, provide \$3.6 million to continue all existing awards. This support is now part of the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GANN) program. GANN was allocated \$30.0 million, the same as the president's request. The committee backed the Clinton administration's proposal to consolidate graduate support under GANN. The House bill agreed with the administration's request to terminate the Law School Clinical Experience program.

After a Lowey amendment to shift \$2.0 million to the Women Educational Equity Program and from the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, (OERI), the office received \$121.6 million, \$13.6 million over the request and \$14.6 million over current funding. The report expressed concern over the lack of data on the effectiveness of programs within the Department of Education, and urged the development of greater evaluation techniques. The National Center for Education Statistics was voted \$50.0 million. This is \$3.8 million above current funding, and mirrors the administration's request.

The House voted \$53.5 million for the domestic activities of the international education and foreign language studies programs of the department. That figure is slightly over both current funding and the administration request. The overseas programs, known as Fulbright-Hays, were provided \$4.8 million, the same as current funding and down \$1.0 million from the budget request. The bill provided \$15.0 million for the Fund for the Improvement of Post-

Secondary Education, the same as current funding and \$3.0 million below the request.

The United States Institute of Peace, which provides education and training, basic and applied research, and other services in the areas of peace studies and conflict resolution, was allocated \$11.2 million, the same as the budget request and slightly below current funding.

The House voted \$302.6 million in direct funding for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), an increase of \$5.6 million over current funding, but \$17.7 million less than the administration's request. The administration's full request for \$16.1 million for Consumer Price Index revision was granted, with the report calling it "the very highest priority." An amendment successfully offered on the House floor by Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) removed \$300,000 from the Committee's appropriation for BLS and gave it to the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration. The bill appropriated \$6.2 million for research and evaluation of federal job training programs. This is equal to current funding, and down from the White House's \$10.2 million request.

### HOUSE BILL CUTS NSF ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNT

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that the cut would damage NSF's ability to carry out the merit review process, utilize research review panels, and operate in a manner that allows for the efficient processing of grants.

In addition to the Walker amendment, the House accepted an amendment sponsored by Rep. Bob Stump (R-AZ) to add funding to the Veterans' Administration by taking a 0.4 percent reduction from all other agencies funded by the bill. This cost the NSF \$13 million. The House also voted to bar federal funding for any institution of higher education that prevents ROTC and military recruiters access to its campus. This provision, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-NY), has been added to other appropriations and authorization bills.

After the Walker and Stump amendments were adopted, NSF received \$3.340 billion, \$20 million

above FY 1996, less than a one percent increase. The House appropriated \$2.421 billion for research and related activities, \$106 million above FY 1996, with \$50 million dedicated to research instrumentation, previously found in another account. Education and Human Resources was set at \$610 million from the House, \$11 million above last year. The Salaries and Expense account received \$125 million, which includes \$5 million for relocation reimbursements to the General Services Administration. Rounding out the rest of the NSF appropriation are \$80 million for major research equipment and \$5 million for the Inspector General's office.

The bill now goes to the Senate. Given time constraints, the Senate Appropriations subcommittee overseeing NSF will not hold a formal hearing with NSF officials. The Senate will consider the VA-HUD in mid-July. As the House bill eliminated funding for Americorps, one of President Clinton's favorite programs, the legislation faces a White House veto. With time growing short on the legislative calendar, the possibility of another Continuing Resolution appears likely. The election year-congressional adjournment is scheduled for October 4, shortly after the start of fiscal year 1997.

#### HUD's Policy Research

The House VA, HUD appropriations bill included \$34 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research (OPDR). Despite providing no increase in funding, in the report accompanying the bill the appropriators recognized that "the research conducted by this office . . . has paid off in big dividends to the Department." To supplement the direct funding, the committee encouraged HUD to consider including OPDR as a set-aside within the Secretary's reserve fund or providing it with funding from the many technical assistance set-asides within program accounts.

## OERI SEEKS COMMENTS ON RESEARCH PLAN

The Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) has issued a draft of its research plan and priorities. Developed by its oversight Board, the plan, *Building on What We've Learned: Developing Priorities for Education Research*, fulfills one of the provisions of the OERI's 1994 reauthorization.

The plan, according to OERI Assistant Secretary Sharon Robinson, is "purposefully written for a wide-range of audiences, is designed to gather feedback and build consensus about important education issues worthy of systematic investigation, and will be used as a basis for an evolving *national* -- not just federal -- research agenda for the next fifteen years." It outlines research results and research proposals in the areas such as supporting the learner, improving teaching and learning, strengthening schools, making the education system work, and improving postsecondary education, transition to work, and adult learning.

OERI plans to hold regional meetings concerning the plan throughout 1996. For information on these meetings call Cynthia Dorfman at 202/219-1556. For copies of the plan or to make comments e-mail: [research\\_plan@inet.ed.gov](mailto:research_plan@inet.ed.gov).

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY DATA REPORT AVAILABLE

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation of The Department of Health and Human Services recently released the first single volume, *Trends in the Well-being of America's Children and Youth*, of information on a comprehensive set of national trends in the lives of children and youth. The volume is "intended as a resource document for the policy community," according to Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy Wendell E. Primus, in the letter accompanying the book. The report will be updated annually.

Divided into two parts, the report contains "a quick-reference guide describing national trends for 74 indicators of child and youth well-being based on data

collected by the Federal Government." The indicators are organized into five areas:

- population, family, and neighborhood;
- economic security;
- health conditions and health care;
- social development, behavioral health, and teen fertility; and
- education and achievement.

The second section of the volume "offers a narrative treatment of a particular topic affecting the well-being of children and youth. It is a "chapter on family and populations issues titled *Population Change and the Family Environment of Children*, by Donald J. Hernandez of the U.S. Census Bureau. The section "draws heavily on data from the Decennial Censuses and the Current Populations Surveys," emphasizing historical trends and "in some cases reaching as far back as 1790, the time of the first U.S. Census."

#### Indicators Included in Report

The indicators included in the report are those that are collected at the federal level and only indicators that have been collected more than once over the past few years. They were chosen based on such considerations as: data availability, timeliness, quality and consistency. State and local level data is not provided. Additional measures are expected to be added in future editions as new data become available, and in response to feedback from users of the report.

#### The Need for Better Data on Children

The report noted that there "are some major gaps in the federal statistical system that limit our capacity to monitor the well-being of our nation's children and youth. The largest gaps exist in the areas of social development and behavioral health. Very little data of this sort are collected on a regular basis for children prior to the teenage years." The report recognizes that "data describing social development and behavioral health--broken down by age group--would be particularly informative." Additionally, the reports note that data on the "co-occurrence of difficulties and

deficiencies, or positive indicators, would be particularly useful." Promising efforts are being made to incorporate measures into regularly fielded national surveys such as the National Household Education Survey, the National Health Interview Survey, the National Household Survey of Drug Abuse, and reports such as *Mental Health, United States*.

Because most of the federal data collected on teens are limited to student surveys, information is limited concerning the "social development, risk- and health-related behaviors of teens who have dropped out of school, a group which is particularly likely to be experiencing difficulties. Other areas where data are lacking included "children abuse and neglect, child mental health and substance abuse, learning disabilities, institutionalized children, . . . those in alternative living arrangements, . . . the types of interventions used for children with these problems or other health and behavior problems.

#### Federal Interagency Forum

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics supported the production of the volume. It is a recently-formed group of Federal agencies and departments responsible for collecting data on children and youth, including: the Bureau of Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Education Statistics, the National Center for Health Statistics, the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at HHS.

Others assisting in the production of the book include: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Administration of Children and Families, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

To obtain a copy, contact the Government Printing Office at (202) 512-1880 or fax (202) 512-2250. The price is \$26.00 and the stock number is 017-022-01336-6.

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