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## SENATE COMMITTEE FINISHES SPENDING BILLS: FINAL ACTION NOT LIKELY UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION

For the first time in many years, the Senate Appropriations Committee has completed its consideration of all the FY 2007 spending bills before the annual August recess. Unfortunately, this does not necessarily indicate that Congress will enact all the bills before the start of FY 2007 on October 1, 2006.

Although the House has passed all its spending bills, with the exception of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, the Senate has enacted only the Homeland Security spending plan and may pass the Defense and Military Construction bills the week of July 24 before leaving town for five weeks.

When Congress returns after Labor Day, it will have less than a month before leaving again to campaign for re-election. House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) has already announced that the session will recess on September 29 and resume for a lame-duck on November 13. He has also suggested that he expects Congress to remain in session through December.

This has led many to speculate about the fate of the spending bills, including the possibility of Congress failing to enact individual stand alone legislation, necessitating their packaging into an Omnibus Appropriations Act. When this is done, the congressional leadership frequently takes control from the appropriations leadership and simple solutions like across-the-board cuts are often invoked.

## SENATE PANEL COMPLETES ACTION ON LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION FUNDING

On July 18, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), reported its FY 2007 spending bill. Specter, who tried valiantly to obtain more funds for his Subcommittee during the budget process ([see UPDATE March 20, 2006](#)), indicated that those promised dollars never fully materialized and thus his panel was severely constrained in its ability to support the agencies under its jurisdiction to the extent he desires. The full Appropriations Committee approved the Subcommittee's recommendations on July 20.

The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, a favorite agency of both Specter and Ranking Democrat Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), received \$28.551 billion from the panel, \$220.8 million above FY 2006, \$301 million more than the House figure, and \$200.7 million above the Administration's request. The halcyon days of large increases and budget doubling are long over.

The Office of the NIH Director gets \$160.6 million of the Senate panel's increase. The report accompanying the bill indicates that some of these funds are to continue the National Children's Study (NCS). This differs from the House version, which asked the National

Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to fund the NCS, which would have put enormous strain on the Institute's budget.

Most of the 27 Institutes and Centers received minimal increases ranging from \$600,000 to \$1 million. The exceptions were the Aging Institute (up \$3 million), the Cancer Institute (up \$9 million), the Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (up \$4.5 million), the Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney Diseases Institute (up \$4 million), the Neurological Disorders and Stroke Institute (up \$4 million), and the National Center for Research Resources (up \$6 million). The Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has a large role in the prevention of Avian Flu and Bioterrorism, received a \$15.2 million increase.

The Committee provided \$6.196 billion for the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** in FY 2007. If the \$293 FY 2006 emergency supplemental appropriation funds for CDC are included, this FY 2007 amount represents a drop of \$184.4 million below last year's funding level. If you exclude the supplemental as the Committee does in its report, the FY 2007 total is \$108.6 million above last year's regular appropriated level. The House gave CDC \$6.173 billion, while the Administration requested \$6.099 billion. The Committee funded the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) at the Administration's requested level of \$109 million.

The **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** received \$318.7 million from the Senate panel, matching the House number and the Administration's request. This is the same figure as the FY 2006 appropriation. The difference is that for FY 2007 the funds will no longer come from the Public Health Service Evaluation Set-Aside funds, but from regular budget authority. The funding for the Medical Panel Expenditure Surveys remains at the FY 2006 level of \$55.3 million.

The **Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)**, which supports policy research including the National and Regional Poverty Research Centers, will continue to receive \$39.6 million from the evaluation set-aside funds.

#### **Increases for State Education Data Systems; No Funds for Foreign Language Initiative**

The Committee provided the **Institute of Education Sciences (IES)** an \$18.4 million boost for FY 2007 to \$535.9 million. This is \$1 million more than the House, but \$18.5 million below the Administration's request. Over \$13 million of the increase will go to the Statewide Data Systems effort to develop longitudinal systems for individual student data. This raises funding for that program to \$38 million, \$3 million more than the House, but \$16.6 million below the request. The National Center of Education Statistics (NCES) received a \$1 million increase to slightly more than \$91 million, \$2 million less than the House and the request. The Senate panel enhanced funding for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) by \$4 million to \$92.1 million as the Administration requested and the House agreed. The IES core research, development, and dissemination budget would remain at \$162.6 million, same as last year, the amount provided by the House, and the FY 2007 request.

The panel provided the Javits Fellowship program slightly less than \$9.7 million, the same as last year, the amount provided by the House, and the FY 2007 request. The Senate Committee applauded the Secretary of Education's expansion of the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program to include Ph.D. programs in Nursing, although the panel did not expand funding for the program, which is \$30.1 million. Unlike previous years, the Senate did not save the Thurgood Marshall Legal Education Opportunity program after its proposed elimination by the Administration was seconded by the House.

The Senate panel also followed the House in providing no funding for the President's National Security Language Initiative. The Administration proposed \$24 million for this new program focusing on less commonly taught languages ([see Update January 16, 2006](#)). The regular **International Education and Foreign Language** programs, authorized under Title VI of the Higher Education Act, received \$105.8 million; same as last year, the FY 2007 request, and the amount provided by the House.

Like the House, the Senate panel once again has used the Fund for the Improvement for Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) as a depository for special projects deemed worthy by the Congress, also known as earmarks. So the panel has recommended \$80.5 million for FIPSE in FY 2007. This is \$58.5 million above last year's mostly devoid of earmarks budget of \$22 million. The House gave FIPSE \$90.1 million.

Congress continues to accept the Administration's proposed increases for the **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)**. The Senate panel recommended funding BLS at the requested level of \$563.3 million, a \$26.2 million increase over FY 2006. The House actually provided \$2 million more than the President's request.

The next issue of Update will provide details from the Committee's Report.

## **SENATE PANEL MARKS UP SPENDING BILL: NSF FINE; CENSUS AND JUSTICE AGENCIES FACE CUTS**

On July 11 the Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL), marked up its FY 2007 bill. Two days later, the full Appropriations Committee reported the legislation to the Senate. When, and if, the bill

will see action on the Senate floor is uncertain.

The Senate panel provided the National Science Foundation (NSF) \$5.992 billion, a \$410.5 million increase from the FY 2006 funding level, but \$28.3 million below the House-passed figure and the Administration's request.

The Committee recommended \$4.646 billion for the Research and Related Activities account, which includes funding for all the research directorates, including the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences. This is \$314.9 million above last year's funding level, and \$19 million below the House and the budget request. The NSF director is given the discretion to allocate this funding. In the accompanying report, the Committee allocated specific amounts for the Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP) and the National Radio Astronomy Observatories (NRAO). There was no attempt to limit funding for the social and behavioral sciences as some had feared given the remarks of Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) (see UPDATE May 15 and May 26, 2006). In addition, report language supporting the National Nanotechnology Initiative suggests: "NSF is encouraged to make sure that public misconceptions of this field are minimized," something research on the social, ethical, and legal implications of Nanotechnology can help provide.

The Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR) received \$835.8 million from the Senate panel, \$39.1 million above FY 2006, \$19.5 million above the request, and \$3.3 million more than the House. While expressing support for the American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI), the President's plan to boost science research funding, the Committee noted: "the ACI neglects the education work NSF does in support of research across the country...For this reason, the Committee has chosen to redistribute a portion of the funds requested as part of this new initiative."

### Senate Panel Gives Census Bureau \$50 Million Below Request

The U.S. Census Bureau received \$828.2 million from the Senate Appropriations Committee. This is \$50 million below the requested level, \$26.3 million above last year, and \$2.3 million more than the House allocation. The entire \$50 million reduction from the request comes from the Periodic Censuses and Programs which provides the funding for the ramp-up to the 2010 decennial count as well as funding for the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS, an annual sample survey, will replace the long-form of the previous Censuses. In its report, the Committee encouraged the Census "to continue its hard work to minimize the number of personal visits for non-response follow-up for all Census surveys." This would, the Committee says, eliminate an "inefficient" use of Census funds.

The Salaries and Expenses Account is funded at the requested level of \$184.1 million. This account funds the Bureau's ongoing surveys that collect important demographic, economic, and social data. The House allocated \$6 million more for these activities. Unlike the House, which provided funds to keep it going, the Senate report says nothing about the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

On July 27, the House Science, State, Justice, Commerce Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) will hold an unusual hearing to discuss with Census Bureau officials the impact of the reductions to the Bureau's budget that occurred on the House floor ([See UPDATE July 10, 2006](#)). Wolf, who vigorously opposed the cuts, wants to publicize the difficulties the reduced funds would create as the Bureau begins the ramp-up to the 2010 Census.

### NIJ and BJS Suffer Severe Cuts

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) are the research, technology, and data collection arms of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Since 2001, DOJ has focused much of its efforts as the counter-terrorism arm of the government, despite the new Department of Homeland Security.

In doing so, the Administration has tried for a number of years to significantly reduce the Department's support for state and local crime efforts. Congress, for the most part, has rejected those attempts, but each year it has left funding below the previous year's figures. This year, the House reduced justice assistance funding by \$6.5 million over last year, and the Senate Appropriations Committee's reduction was \$58 million.

Included in these reductions by the Senate was an \$11.3 million cut below FY 2006 and a \$13 million cut below the FY 2007 request to NIJ's base budget, allocating only \$43 million. In making this appropriation, the Senate panel also recommended funding for Social Science Research and Evaluation (SSRE) of only \$3 million, more than \$8 million reduction from the FY 2006 funding levels. The House funded NIJ at \$55 million with no specific amount for the social sciences.

In addition, the Senate followed the House in reducing the set-aside for NIJ from the Violence Against Women program. Last year NIJ received \$5 million. This year's appropriation is \$2.5 million. The Administration proposed eliminating the set-aside. NIJ has also received funding from the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program for some of its technology work. That funding has been eliminated in the Senate committee bill. The Senate report also requires that "prior to the obligation of any funds, NIJ submit a spending plan on how resources will be allocated."

For BJS the percentage reduction was even greater. The Senate panel appropriated only \$20 million, a reduction of \$14.5 million below last year's funding. The House funded BJS at \$36 million. Both the House and the Senate rejected the Administration's attempt to include management and administration funds in the base budgets of NIJ and BJS, keeping them in separate accounts.

With very few days left in the legislative calendar before both the August recess and the break for campaigning that will come at the end of September, it is unclear if this bill will ever reach the Senate floor before possibly becoming part of an Omnibus Appropriations bill during a lame duck session after the 2006 elections.

## BEHAVIORAL SCIENTISTS AMONG NSB NOMINEES; OSTP ASSOC. DIRECTOR FOR SCIENCES NAMED

On June 15, President Bush announced his intention to nominate eight new members of the National Science Board (NSB). The Board is an independent policy body with dual responsibilities: to oversee and establish policies for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and provide advice to the President and the Congress on policy issues related to science and engineering. All of the nominees require Senate confirmation.

Among the eight new nominees are three behavioral scientists: **John Bruer**, President of the James S. McDonell Foundation in St. Louis; **Camilla Persson Benbow**, Dean of the Peabody School of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University; and **Richard Thompson**, William Keck Chair in Biological Sciences and Professor of Psychology at the University of Southern California (USC).

Bruer has been president of McDonnell since 1986, where in conjunction with the Pew Charitable Trusts he has supported a major program in cognitive neuroscience. He is the author of *The Myth of the First Three Years: A New Understanding of Early Brain Development and Lifelong Learning*, which debunks many popular beliefs about the all-or-nothing effects of early experience on a child's brain and development. Bruer has managed a three-year seminar series on women's careers in science, which resulted in *The Inner Circle: Women in the Scientific Community* (with Harriet Zuckerman and Jonathan Cole). He has also served on the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, the policy advisory panel to the Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences, and holds Bachelors degrees in Philosophy from the University of Wisconsin and Oxford, and a Ph.D. from Rockefeller University.

Since 1998, Benbow has served as Dean of the Peabody School of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University. Prior to arriving at Vanderbilt, she served as Interim Dean of the School of Education and Chair of the Department of Psychology at Iowa State University. She served as co-director of the Iowa Governor's Institute for the Gifted and Talented and director of a study of mathematically precocious youth while at Johns Hopkins University in the 1980s. Benbow is the editor of two books: *Intellectual Talent: Psychometric and Social Issues* (with David Lubinski) and *Academic Precocity: Aspects of its Development* (with Julian Stanley). She holds a B.A., and M.A. in Psychology, a M.S. in Education, and an Ed.D, all from Johns Hopkins.

Thompson has been a resident at USC since 1987. He previously taught at Stanford (psychology and human biology), Harvard (psychology), and the University of California, Irvine (psychology). A behavioral neuroscientist, Thompson's research has focused on the physical basis of memory. He is particularly interested in classical conditioning described by Ivan Pavlov. In 2002, he became the first to identify and map the neural circuits responsible for classical conditioning. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and has received the John P. McGovern Award from American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Distinguished Scientific Contribution award from the American Psychological Association. Thompson received a B.A. from Reed College, and a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The three candidates will join AAAS Chief Executive Officer Alan Leshner, University of Colorado President Emerita Elizabeth Hoffman, and educational consultant Jo Anne Vasquez as current members of the NSB with training in the social and behavioral sciences. The NSB has 24 members, with three classes of eight serving six- year staggered terms. The new class will serve until May 2012. The current NSB chair is Stephen Berring, President Emeritus of Purdue University. The NSF director serves in an ex-officio capacity.

### Hays Named to OSTP

The White House has also announced that Sharon Hays, former Staff Director of the House Science Committee's Basic Research Subcommittee, will become the Office of Science and Technology Policy's (OSTP) Associate Director for Science. That position has been vacant since Kathie Olsen left to become the Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation in 2005.

Hays has been serving as Deputy Associate Director for Technology at OSTP. She was Staff Director from 2001 until August 2002. Prior to her promotion to Staff Director, she worked as a professional staff member for the Basic Research Subcommittee and subsequently for the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. She first joined the Science Committee's staff in mid-1999. Before working for the Committee, Hays acted as a consultant to *Science* magazine. Hays served as an AAAS Congressional Science Fellow in the office of Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-MI). She worked with Ehlers on the Science Committee report *Unlocking Our Future: Toward a New National*

*Science Policy.* She has a B.A. in Molecular Biology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Stanford.

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND EXPLORED

On July 14, the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) and American Educational Research Association (AERA) held an education policy forum on No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The discussion was led by Arnold Fege, Director of Public Engagement and Advocacy at the Public Education Network (PEN). Over the past year, PEN has sponsored a series of hearings with citizens, parents, teachers and students on NCLB and released the findings in a publication entitled, *The Public Speaks Out on No Child Left Behind*.

Through PEN's hearings some major themes have arose. Overall, parents, teachers and students, and others at the local level do not report favorably on their experience with the NCLB, especially those who live in urban areas. The public believes that there is a lack of communication and information about NCLB law. Fege said this lack of communication leads parents to be confused about the policies and requirements of NCLB and how it affects their schools and children. PEN found that NCLB's provisions for parent and community involvement in the education reform process are weak and often ignored.

Fege stressed that more parental involvement and public engagement in education reform is necessary and provisions need to be in place to ensure this involvement. Hearing participants want to see provisions created that would help strengthen and enforce parental involvement. This would include a method for parents to officially submit complaints and allow those complaints to be followed up on. The participants also suggested that SES providers be held more accountable and to the same NCLB standards as their local schools.

PEN's hearings also showed that the public feels that the federal, state and local governments lack the capacity to adequately carryout the full requirements of NCLB, and that sufficient funding has not been provided to do so. Parents, teachers, students and the community at large feel that the academic supports promised under NCLB, are inadequate, and in the case of the Supplemental Education Services (SES) lack sufficient regulation and oversight. The public also suggested changes they would like to see made to NCLB. Realizing the success or failure of their public schools does not rest with just the schools or its teachers, participants would like the community's business leaders, politicians and community organizations held to greater accountability. They would like their schools to establish stronger relationships with the various sectors of the community to help provide better support students and their families.

PEN's mission, is to build public demand and mobilize resources for quality public education for all children through a national constituency of individuals and community-based advocacy organizations also known as local education funds (LEFs). PEN will continue to hold hearings with the public. And will include a round of hearings in rural areas to explore the problems and concerns rural communities face complying with NCLB.

For more information on the Public Education Network and it's report on No Child Left Behind go to <http://www.publiceducation.org/>

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (**COSSA**), an  
 advocacy organization for Federal support for the social and  
 behavioral sciences.

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