
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: 98TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION

The 98th Congress returned to Washington for its second session January 23. In a shortened election-year session dominated by politics, Congress is not expected to accomplish very much. In the course of the session, COSSA will monitor the appropriations process and focus its efforts on the following pieces of legislation:

Justice Assistance Act: The House passed legislation last year (H.R. 2175) abolishing the Office of Justice Assistance Research and Statistics (OJARS), but keeping the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) as independent entities within a new Office of Justice Assistance (OJA). The Senate is considering similar legislation as part of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act (S. 1762), however the Senate bill would put NIJ and BJS in a situation where their autonomy would be threatened. The fate of NIJ and BJS may depend on the resolution of other, more controversial, provisions of the Comprehensive Crime Control bill.

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Dell H. Hymes, *President*

Roberta Balstad Miller, *Executive Director*

NIH Reauthorization: In the last session of Congress, the House passed legislation to reauthorize the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The House bill includes provisions advocated by COSSA that would greatly increase the representation of social and behavioral scientists on the NIH Advisory Board and NIH Advisory Councils. The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee has cleared a bill (S. 773) for floor action which does not provide for social and behavioral science representation on NIH advisory bodies. However, Senate action on the bill may be held up by debate on a fetal research amendment to be offered by Sen. Jeremiah Denton (R-AL).

Tax Credit for Research and Development: The Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 provides a tax credit for new industrial research and development (R&D) and the donation of scientific property used for research. However, support for social science research is specifically excluded from the tax credit. Sen. John Danforth (R-MO) and Rep. James Shannon (D-MA) have introduced similar legislation (S. 2165 & H.R. 4475) that would extend the tax credit permanently. These bills would also perpetuate the exclusion of social science research from qualifying for the R&D tax credit. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, is scheduled to conduct hearings on the tax credit. COSSA hopes to testify in favor of expanding the definition of types of research eligible for the credit.

National Security Decision Directive 84: COSSA has joined with the Association of American Universities (AAU) and other groups concerned with research and academic freedom in opposing implementation of this Executive Order. The Directive would force 127,000 current federal employees to submit their writings to censorship by the government for the rest of their lives. Sen. Charles Mathias (R-MD), who sponsored successful legislation delaying implementation of this directive for 6 months, will hold hearings on it. Rep. Jack Brooks (D-TX), Chairman, House Government Operations Committee, is also scheduled to conduct hearings and introduce legislation to bar the implementation of this directive permanently.

University Research Capacity Restoration Act: This legislation (S. 1537) was introduced by Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-MO) and Sen. John Danforth (R-MO) to provide additional appropriations for research grants, research facilities, graduate fellowships, and awards to young faculty members. Although not a piece of legislation intended for enactment, the Senators want their bill to be used as a guide for appropriations' increases for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense and Energy, and NASA, NIH and NSF. COSSA will try to ensure that any definitions of science and research will include the social and behavioral sciences.

High Tech Legislation: A number of pieces of legislation dealing with technology, innovation, industrial development and policy, and computer equipment contributions, have been introduced by such diverse people as Sen. Tsongas (D-MA), Sen. Grassley (R-IA), Sen. Mathias (R-MD), Sen. Hart (D-CO), Rep. Shannon (D-MA), Rep. Lundine (D-NY), Rep. Donnelly (D-MA) and Rep. Stark (D-CA). Some of these proposals have been the subjects of hearings, others have not. None has reached the stage of enactment. COSSA will continue to monitor this legislation, although it is unlikely that any of these bills will be passed in this session.

Education Legislation: The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will be reauthorized in 1984 as part of a package of education programs. Representative Paul Simon (D-IL), Chairman, Postsecondary Education Subcommittee, plans to introduce legislation and hold hearings on his ideas for reauthorization for the Higher Education Act (HEA), which is not scheduled to be reauthorized until 1986. Traditionally, the National Institute of Education (NIE) has been reauthorized with the HEA. That situation may occur again this time. Math and science education legislation has passed the House, but remains stalled in the Senate. In the NCES, NIE and HEA reauthorizations there are issues of data collection and research management that COSSA will monitor.

For further information about any of these issues contact Dr. Howard Silver at COSSA, 202/234-5703.

SOCIAL SCIENTIST TO HEAD SMITHSONIAN

Dr. Robert McC. Adams, Provost of the University of Chicago, was appointed to the post of Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Adams, an anthropologist, was the first chairman of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Assembly of Behavioral and Social Sciences from 1973-1976 and is currently a member of the NAS Council. From 1980-1982, he was Chairman of the Committee on Basic Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences, the Committee that was responsible for the report Behavioral and Social Science Research: A National Resource (1982). In his new position, Dr. Adams will be one of the most prominent social scientists in the federal government.

HHS REPORT CONFIRMS OHDS MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Recent charges that the Office of Human Development Services (OHDS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), had been funding proposals which received low ratings in the OHDS peer review process were confirmed by a report issued by the Office of the Inspector General for HHS. The report, which was released in December 1983, reviewed the management of discretionary grants in OHDS for FY 1982. OHDS awarded \$100 million that year to support research, demonstration, and training in the areas of aging, Native Americans, children, youth and families, and developmental disabilities. "Awards were made to applicants rated lower in technical merit by peer reviewers than other applicants, which were not funded," the report stated, and went on to say that when these awards ignored peer review rank order, they were not sufficiently justified.

The management of research at OHDS was criticized in several other areas as well. The report found that OHDS "awarded grants non-competitively without proper justification" and "used grants and cooperative agreements in situations where contracts would have been more appropriate." Moreover, grant and project officers "often were not aware of the progress being made by recipients on HDS grants" and "were not visiting grantees annually to assess progress," even when problems with grantees had been identified. In addition, final technical and financial reports were not submitted on time, and completed grants were not closed out promptly.

Despite the OHDS departures from what have become standard research management procedures, the research funds are discretionary, and therefore OHDS practices may not violate the law. The General Accounting Office (GAO) is currently investigating research management practices at OHDS and is scheduled to release a preliminary report in March. If the GAO investigation finds clear violations of regulations, the House Subcommittee on Human Resources, chaired by Rep. Ike Andrews (D-NC), will hold hearings this spring.

COSSA TO INAUGURATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH NETWORK

In order to develop grassroots support for the independence of the criminal justice research enterprise, COSSA is establishing a network of criminal justice researchers. COSSA's most immediate concern is with congressional attempts to alter the structure of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). For further information, see the article on the COSSA legislative agenda, p. 1.

Those interested in joining the network should contact Dr. Howard Silver at COSSA, 202/234-5703. A mailing explaining the network will be sent to you.

GAO INVESTIGATES OJJDP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A GAO investigation found that President Reagan violated the terms of the Juvenile Justice Act by failing to appoint the full 15 members of the National Advisory Committee to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) until two and one-half years after he entered the White House. The investigation was made at the request of Rep. Ike Andrews (D-NC), Chairman, House Subcommittee on Human Resources. The Subcommittee has oversight over the OJJDP.

All 15 members of the Advisory Committee resigned when President Reagan took office in January 1981. Although the Juvenile Justice Act requires the President to fill vacant positions on the Advisory Committee within 90 days after they occur, the President's first nine appointments were not made until May 1982 (16 months later). The full 15 members were not on board until July 1983. The GAO report concludes that "These delays violated...the act. The Advisory Committee's composition did not fully meet the intent of the act until July 1983."

The Advisory Committee could not conduct official business as a legally constituted body between January 1981 and November 1982 because it lacked sufficient members (10) to form a quorum.

Commenting on the GAO report, the Department of Justice claimed the President did not appoint the new members to the Advisory Committee in 1981 because the Office of Juvenile Justice was slated for elimination that year. The appointment process began in early 1982 when it became evident that the Office would continue to exist.

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to review and evaluate federal policies and activities affecting juvenile justice and delinquency prevention; advise the OJJDP administrator; advise the National Institute of Justice and the National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency about research, evaluation and training policies and activities; make refinements to standards for the administration of juvenile justice at the federal, state and local levels; and submit interim and annual reports to the President and Congress.

Although this violation of the law may be technical, it raises questions about the role of the Advisory Board in the agency. It is clear from the legislation establishing the Board that it was intended to serve an important leadership role in the field of juvenile justice, something it could not do without any members.

KEEPING THE CONGRESS INFORMED: THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

This is the third in a series of articles about the four congressional agencies -- CRS, CBO, OTA, GAO -- that provide information for the U.S. Congress. Previous issues of the COSSA Washington Update featured the Congressional Research Service and the Congressional Budget Office. In this issue we describe the Office of Technology Assessment. The General Accounting Office will be discussed in a future issue.

The Office of Technology Assessment

The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), a nonpartisan agency of the U.S. Congress, works directly with congressional committees, providing detailed analyses of technological issues and responding to specific questions. OTA was established in 1972 by the Technology Assessment Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-484) which stated that "As technology continues to change and expand rapidly, its applications are large and growing in scale; and increasingly extensive, pervasive, and critical in their impact, beneficial and adverse, on the natural and social environment. Therefore, it is essential that, to the fullest extent possible, the consequences of technological applications be anticipated, understood, and considered in determination of public policy on existing and emerging national problems."

OTA has a professional staff of about 85 individuals trained in the physical, life, and social sciences, engineering, the law and medicine. The staff is organized into nine program areas: energy; international security and commerce; materials; food and renewable resources; health; biological applications; communication and information technologies; oceans and environment; and space, transportation, and innovation. Teams of researchers are formed to conduct in-depth assessments, which can take up to two years to complete. OTA often requests assistance from outside the agency, using contractors and consultants from industry, universities, private research organizations, and public interest groups. Solicitations for OTA projects appear in Commerce Business Daily. Although the vast majority of contracts are quite small, the agency spends approximately \$4 million annually for outside research consultants.

OTA is governed by a 12-member bipartisan congressional board consisting of six Senators and six Representatives who are appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. In addition, the Board appoints an Advisory Council of 10 public members eminent in science, technology, and education to advise the Board on OTA assessments and other matters.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for more information.

Division of Extramural Research Grants:
Behavioral Sciences Research Branch

The Behavioral Sciences Research Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has general responsibility for the development of knowledge regarding psychological processes and psycho-social correlates of behavior relevant to mental health and illness.

Purpose of Program: The various programs of the Branch generally support both basic and applied research projects which deal with psychological and psycho-social processes along with related psycho-biological factors which influence the development and modification of adaptive and maladaptive behavior. The Branch is a major locus within NIMH for normative studies of behavior and its various mediators throughout the life span. The research programs are divided into four sections: (1) personality and emotional processes and problems; (2) cognition and learning processes and problems; (3) interpersonal processes and problems (i.e. socio-cultural factors and influences relevant to mental health); and (4) family systems and mental health.

FY 1984 funds: Approximately \$2.5 million, but additional funds may also be allocated to the Branch.

Funding mechanisms: All grants.

Review process: Peer review.

Disciplines funded: Mostly psychology, but there are no restrictions on disciplines.

Time restrictions: Awards will not be made for more than 3 years.

Success ratio: 25%

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NEXT ISSUE: FY 1985 BUDGET

The President will submit his FY 1985 budget to Congress on Wednesday, February 1. The next issue of the COSSA Washington Update will contain an analysis of how social and behavioral science research budgets fare in the administration's plans for FY 1985.

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