



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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In This Issue

FEATURED NEWS

[Senate Introduces "COMPETES" Reauthorization Bill](#)

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

[Appropriations Process Grinds to a Halt](#)

[Lipinski Introduces Legislation to Improve Research Regulations](#)

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

[Impact Report Highlights Obama Administration's Science Initiatives](#)

[Acting Agricultural Statistics Board Chair Named](#)

[Scientific Workforce Diversity Discussed at NIH Advisory Committee Meeting](#)

[Census Scientific Advisory Committee Seeks Nominations](#)

[Nominations Open for NSB Awards](#)

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

[NAS Webinar Puts Recent "Advancing the Power of Economic Evidence" Report in International Context](#)

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

[CJRA & COSSA to Host "Ask a Criminologist" Roundtable on Homicide Rates](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEATURED NEWS

Senate Introduces "COMPETES" Reauthorization Bill

On June 22, Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO), Gary Peters (D-MI), John Thune (R-SD), and Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced the bipartisan [American Innovation and Competitiveness Act](#) (S. 3084), which is the Senate's version of *America COMPETES Act* reauthorization legislation. As COSSA has been reporting, the [America COMPETES Act](#) is legislation originally enacted in 2007 to bolster U.S. investment in basic scientific research at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal science agencies. The [House's efforts](#) to reauthorize COMPETES took a negative turn in recent years, resulting in legislation that would decimate federal funding for social science research and dismantle the peer review process as we currently know it. In contrast, the bill introduced in the Senate last week looks to support-not undercut-NSF's grant-making infrastructure.

The Senate bill is scheduled to be [marked up](#) by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on June 29. [Read on](#) for highlights of S. 3084.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Appropriations Process Grinds to a Halt

It was only a matter of time before the fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriations process ground to a halt in anticipation of the extended summer recess. Tensions came to a head last week with a Democratic sit-in on the House floor in demand of a vote on gun safety legislation, and a 15-hour Democratic filibuster of the FY 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill in the Senate to force votes on gun violence-related amendments, which were allowed late in the week. In light of the renewed focus on gun control in the aftermath of the Orlando tragedy, any bipartisan progress made so far on the annual spending bills has evaporated. In addition, the total number of working days in July can be counted on two hands, leaving no time to push on any further. Both sides are already talking about the need to enact a continuing resolution to keep the government operating into the new fiscal year on October 1 when Congress returns from the summer recess in September.

You can stay up to date on the status of FY 2017 funding proposals on the COSSA [website](#).

Lipinski Introduces Legislation to Improve Research Regulations

Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL) introduced legislation on June 24 intended to develop ways to alleviate some of the administrative burden placed on federally funded researchers and institutions. The [University Regulations Streamlining and Harmonization Act of 2016](#) (H.R. 5583), which is co-sponsored by Lipinski's Illinois colleague from across the aisle, Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-IL), builds on recommendations from a 2015 National Academies report, [Optimizing the Nation's Investment in Academic Research: A New Regulatory Framework for the 21st Century, Part 1](#) (part 2 of the report will be released on June 28). The improvements and efficiencies proposed in the bill include establishing a Research Policy Board to advise on proposed regulations and ways to improve existing regulations, streamlining the procurement process for universities, and simplifying the application process across multiple agencies. More details can be found in the [press release](#). The bill has been referred to the House Science, Space and Technology and Oversight and Government Reform committees.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Impact Report Highlights Obama Administration's Science Initiatives

On June 21, the White House released [100 Examples of President Obama's Leadership in Science, Technology, and Innovation](#). Among the initiatives and policies listed are efforts to increase scientific transparency at federal science agencies, the formation of science-related councils and groups at the White House, and the creation of multiple science and research-related tax credits. Many of the initiatives promoted the social and behavioral sciences, including creating the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Team \(SBST\)](#) at the White House, publishing thousands of federal datasets on [data.gov](#), and implementing [a multi-agency plan](#) to harness big data.

Acting Agricultural Statistics Board Chair Named

The National Agricultural Statistics Service has [named](#) Joseph L. Parsons acting chair of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Agricultural Statistics Board](#). The Agricultural Statistics Board "prepares and issues USDA's official national and state forecasts and estimates relating to crop production, stocks of agricultural commodities, livestock and livestock products, dairy and dairy products, poultry and poultry products, agricultural prices, economic information, agricultural wage rates, chemical usage, and other such subjects." Parsons currently serves as Director of NASS' Information Technology Division and Chief Information Officer.

Scientific Workforce Diversity Discussed at NIH Advisory Committee Meeting

On June 9, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity [Hannah Valantine](#) updated the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) on the findings and recommendations of the ACD's African American/Black Funding Disparity Working Group. Valantine [presented](#) the key findings of the Working Group followed by a discussion of how the Working Group framed its suggestions regarding NIH's plans to address the issue in the coming months. She reported that the Group's analysis found that there are funding disparities at every stage of the application process from submissions to funding. In particular, the analysis found that African Americans submit fewer applications, noting that it is a "miniscule applicant pool and even within that small pool there are fewer number of applications per applicant." Compounding the issue is that there are fewer resubmissions from African Americans. The Working Group found that the initial review score drives resubmission and there is a small component involved as it relates to the research topic. Based on the data and the ongoing analysis, Valantine stressed that the "work needs to continue to be done and NIH needs to continue a vigilant eye on the issue."

[Read on](#) for more details.

Census Scientific Advisory Committee Seeks Nominations

The Census Bureau has issued a call for nominations for membership to the [Census Scientific Advisory Committee](#). This committee advises the Director of the Census Bureau on statistical data collection, statistical analysis, econometrics, cognitive psychology, and a variety of other scientific areas pertaining to Census Bureau programs and activities. [According to the notice in the Federal Register](#), "Nominees must have scientific and technical expertise in such areas as demography, economics, geography, psychology, statistics, survey methodology, social and behavioral sciences, Information Technology, computing, or marketing." The deadline for applications is July 15, 2016. More information is available in the [Federal Register](#).

Nominations Open for NSB Awards

The National Science Board (NSB), the policy making body for the National Science Foundation (NSF), is accepting nominations for its Vannevar Bush and Public Service awards. The [Vannevar Bush Award](#) "honors truly exceptional lifelong leaders in science and technology who have made substantial contributions to the welfare of the Nation," according to the award's website. [The](#)

[Public Service Award](#) honors both groups and individuals who have made contributions to increasing public understanding of science and engineering. Nominations for the 2017 honorary awards will be accepted through October 3, 2016.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

NAS Webinar Puts Recent "Advancing the Power of Economic Evidence" Report in International Context

On June 16, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) hosted a webinar to discuss the findings and limitations of its report, [Advancing the Power of Economic Evidence to Inform Investments in Children, Youth, and Families](#), which was published in May 2016. The report uses cost analysis (CA), which looks at the costs of a program within a specified time period, cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA), which determines how much of an outcome is achieved per dollar spent, and benefit-cost analysis (BCA), which determines if the value of the outcome surpass its costs, to evaluate which of the government's many intervention programs work well as currently designed, which need tweaking or improvement, and which should be cut altogether. [Read on](#) for more details.

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CJRA & COSSA to Host "Ask a Criminologist" Roundtable on Homicide Rates

The Crime & Justice Research Alliance (CJRA) (a collaborative effort of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the American Society of Criminology, both COSSA members) and COSSA will be hosting the first in a series of "Ask a Criminologist" Congressional roundtables on Thursday, July 7. This roundtable will feature new research commissioned by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) exploring why homicide rates in the United States increased in 2015 and include a discussion with CJRA Chair Dr. Nancy La Vigne, Dr. Richard Rosenfeld, and *Washington Post* reporter Tom Jackman. More information, and a link to RSVP, can be found [here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ED: FY 2016 [American Overseas Research Centers \(AORC\) Program](#) ([Application Technical Assistance Webinar](#): July 8)
 - NIH: Science of Behavior Change: Use-inspired Basic Research to Optimize Behavior Change Interventions and Outcomes (Admin Supp) ([PA-16-334](#))
 - NIH: Advancing Basic Behavioral and Social Research on Resilience: An Integrative Science Approach (UG3/UH3) ([PAR-16-326](#)) [OBSSR, NCCIH, NCI, NIA, NIAAA, NIAMS, NIDA, NIEHS, NIGMS, NIMH]
 - NCI: Linking the Provider Recommendation to Adolescent HPV Vaccine Uptake (R21) ([PAR-16-336](#)), (R03) ([PAR-16-337](#)), (R01) ([PAR-16-338](#))
 - NIMH: Availability of RAISE Data for Secondary Data Analysis ([NOT-MH-16-006](#))
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EVENTS CALENDAR

- ["Ask a Criminologist" Congressional Roundtable: Why Are Homicide Rates Rising?](#), Washington, DC, July 7, 2016
- [Joint Statistical Meetings](#), Chicago, IL, July 30-August 4, 2016
- [American Psychological Association Annual Convention](#), Denver, CO, August 4-7, 2016
- [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), Toronto, Canada, August 16-19, 2016
- [American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), Seattle, WA, August 20-23, 2016
- [American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#), Philadelphia, PA, September 1-4, 2016
- [Economic History Association Annual Meeting](#), Boulder, CO, September 16-18, 2016

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [webpage](#).

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@coffa.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

**COSSA's 2017 Annual Meeting & Social Science Advocacy Day will take place
March 29-30, 2017 in Washington, DC**

Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Association of Geographers
American Evaluation Association
American Historical Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
Boston University

Brown University

Carnegie Mellon University

Clark University

Columbia University

Cornell University

Duke University

Fielding Graduate University

George Mason University
Georgetown University

Harvard University

Howard University
Indiana University
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Johns Hopkins University

Association of Research Libraries

Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences

Council on Social Work Education

Economic History Association

History of Science Society

Midwest Sociological Society

National Association of Social Workers

North American Regional Science Council

Rural Sociological Society

Social Science History Association

Society for Research on Adolescence

Society for Social Work and Research

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

Society of Behavioral Medicine

Southern Political Science Association

Southern Sociological Society

Southwestern Social Science Association

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences

American Academy of Political and Social Science

American Council of Learned Societies

American Institutes for Research

Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences

Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research

Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Institute for Social Science Research,

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Institute for Women's Policy Research

NORC at the University of Chicago

Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia

RTI International

Social Science Research Council

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Michigan State University

New York University

North Carolina State University

Northwestern University

Pennsylvania State University

Princeton University

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Stanford University

Texas A&M University

The George Washington University

The Ohio State University

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of Chicago

University of Colorado, Boulder

University of Illinois

University of Iowa

University of Maryland

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota

University of Missouri

University of Nebraska, Lincoln

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

University of Oklahoma

University of Pennsylvania

University of South Carolina

University of Texas, Austin

University of Texas, San Antonio

University of Virginia

University of Washington

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Virginia Tech

West Virginia University

Yale University

COSSA

Executive Director: Wendy A. Naus

Deputy Director: Angela L. Sharpe

Assistant Director for Public Affairs: Julia Milton
Government Relations Associate: Camille Hosman

Address all inquiries to COSSA at newsletter@coffa.org. **Telephone:** (202) 842-3525

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research.

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Consortium of Social Science Associations | 1701 K Street, NW | Suite 1150 | Washington | DC | 20006