



WASHINGTON UPDATE

September 19, 2017 Volume 36, Issue 18

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FEATURED NEWS

House Passes Omnibus Spending Bill Along with Problematic NSF Amendment

After two weeks of debate and votes on hundreds of amendments, the House of Representatives has passed an omnibus spending bill for fiscal year (FY) 2018, consisting of all twelve spending bills. The omnibus includes the same funding levels for social science research as the [Commerce-Justice-Science](#) and [Labor-Health and Human Services-Education](#) bills that were passed by the House Appropriations Committee. While the proposed funding levels were moderately good for social and behavioral science research, the House approved an amendment proposed by Representative Lamar Smith (R-TX), the chair of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, that could be detrimental to the social sciences. The amendment would require that about \$30 million (or 0.5 percent) of the Research and Related Activities account at the National Science Foundation (NSF) be used only to support basic research in the biological and physical sciences. NSF currently prioritizes research investments based on the advice of its own experts and scholars and if this amendment became law, it could result in political influence into the NSF research process.

Two other amendments that targeted the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and the Census

Bureau, proposed by Rep. Francis Rooney (R-FL) and Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) respectively, were not taken up for consideration on the floor and therefore did not pass.

The spending package has little chance of passing the Senate, but President Trump has already signed a short-term budget measure to keep the government open at current funding levels through December 8, giving Congress more time to come up with a deal for the rest of FY 2018. Read COSSA's full coverage of the FY 2018 spending debate [here](#).

COSSA IN ACTION

The Computing Research Association Answers "Why Social Science?"



This week's *Why Social Science?* guest post comes from Andrew Bernat, Executive Director of the Computing Research Association, who writes about how insights from the social and behavioral sciences enhance the work of computer scientists. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Senate Labor-HHS-Education Bill Approved by Committee

On September 7, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its fiscal year (FY) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Bill; the Labor-HHS Subcommittee advanced the bill on September 5. This bill contains annual funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Education (ED), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), among other federal departments and agencies. The [House Appropriations Committee passed its version](#) of the bill on July 19; the bill recently passed the House as part of a 12-bill omnibus (see related article).

The next step for the bill is consideration by the full Senate. However, Congress recently struck a deal with the White House on a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded into next fiscal year (which begins October 1) through December 8. This is intended to provide additional time for lawmakers to come to agreement on overall budget levels, including the spending caps that are currently casting a major shadow on the FY 2018 appropriations bills; the bills have been written to exceed the caps currently set in law, signaling that a budget deal could be negotiated in the weeks ahead.

[Read on](#) for COSSA's analysis of the Senate Appropriations Committee's proposals for the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Department of Education.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking Releases Final Report

On September 7, the [Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking](#) (CEP) released its final

report, [The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking](#). The Commission was established by the bipartisan *Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2016*, which had been introduced by Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) in the House and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) in the Senate. The Commission consisted of 15 [members](#) appointed by the President, Speaker of the House, House Minority Leader, Senate Majority Leader, and Senate Minority Leader, with five members being selected for their privacy expertise. Katharine G. Abraham, University of Maryland, chaired the Commission, with Ron Haskins, Brookings Institution, as her co-chair. The CEP was given a little over a year to develop a strategy for strengthening the government's evidence-building and policymaking efforts, including identifying ways to more effectively use the data the government already collects. *The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking* is the culmination of these efforts and was approved unanimously by all 15 commissioners. COSSA's previous coverage of the Commission can be found [here](#).

[Read on](#) for more details.

NSF Releases Dear Colleague Letter on Proposals Related to Hurricane Harvey

The National Science Foundation (NSF) released a [Dear Colleague letter](#) on September 1 encouraging submissions of proposals that seek to address challenges related to Hurricane Harvey. This includes proposals that address how to better prepare for storms, the human aspects of natural disasters, improving emergency response, and ways to reduce future damage. Proposals may be submitted as rapid response research grants, early-concept grants, or supplemental funding to existing grants. More information can be found [here](#).

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Annual AERA *Brown* Lecture to Feature Alfredo J. Artiles

The American Educational Research Association (AERA), a COSSA governing member, will hold its 14th annual [Brown Lecture in Education Research](#) on October 19 in Washington, DC. The 2017 lecture will be delivered by Alfredo J. Artiles, Dean of Graduate Education and the Ryan C. Harris Professor of Special Education at Arizona State University. Artiles' work focuses on the intersection of disability with other socio-cultural differences and how to better understand and address related educational disparities. More information on Artiles and the lecture, including how to register to attend in person or watch via webcast, is available on the [AERA website](#).

AAPSS Accepting Nominations for 2019 Moynihan Prize

The American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS), a COSSA member, has opened the nomination process for its 2019 [Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize](#). The Moynihan Prize recognizes "social scientists, public officials and other leaders in the public arena who champion the use of informed judgment to improve public policy." More information on the Prize and instructions for submitting nominations is available on the [AAPSS website](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [The Lunch @ DC: Evidence-Informed Government: Addressing New and Recurring Challenges to Old Problems](#), September 21, 2017, Washington, DC
- [The Lunch @ DC: The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking: Recommendations of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking](#), October 5, 2017, Washington, DC
- [American Statistical Association Symposium on Statistical Inference](#), October 11-13, 2017, Bethesda, MD

- [National Research Summit on Care, Services and Supports for Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers](#), October 16-17, 2017, Bethesda, MD
- [14th Annual AERA Brown Lecture in Education Research With Alfredo J. Artiles](#), October 19, 2017, Washington, DC
- [The Lunch @ DC: How Evidence Can Transform the Fight Against Poverty](#), October 19, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting](#), October 19-22, 2017, Dallas, TX
- [American Psychosomatic Society Mid-Year Meeting: Emotions in Social Relationships: Implications for Health and Disease](#), October 20-21, 2017, Berkeley, CA
- [Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Annual Meeting](#), November 1-4, 2017, Denver, CO
- [Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference](#), November 2-4, 2017, Chicago, IL
- [Social Science History Association Annual Meeting](#), November 2-5, Montreal, Canada
- [Evaluation 2017](#) (American Evaluation Association), November 6-11, 2017, Washington, DC
- [North American Regional Science Council Annual Meeting](#), November 8-12, 2017, Vancouver, Canada
- [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), November 9-12, Toronto, Canada
- [American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting](#), November 15-18, 2017, Philadelphia, PA
- [National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference](#), November 15-18, 2017, Orlando, FL
- [National Communication Association Annual Convention](#), November 16-19, 2017, Dallas, TX
- [Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Annual Convention](#), November 16-19, 2017, San Diego, CA
- [African Studies Association Annual Meeting](#), November 16-19, 2017, Chicago, IL
- [American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting](#), November 29-December 3, 2017, Washington, DC

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

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

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
 Boston University
 Brown University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Clark University
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Duke University
 Fielding Graduate University
 Florida State University
 George Mason University
 George Washington University, The
 Georgetown University
 Harvard University
 Howard University
 Indiana University
 John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
 Johns Hopkins University

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
African Studies Association
American Association of Geographers
American Council of Learned Societies
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
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
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
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
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
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
Ohio State University, The
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Stanford University
Texas A&M 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 Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
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

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.