



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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In This Issue

FEATURED NEWS

[Save the Date: 2018 COSSA Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day – April 30 & May 1](#)

COSSA IN ACTION

[SRCD Answers "Why Social Science?"](#)

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

[Budget Deal to Raise Spending Caps in Negotiation; Senate Releases Remaining Appropriations Bills](#)

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

[Administration Considering Controversial Pick for Census Deputy Director](#)

[Jeffrey H. Anderson Appointed BJS Director](#)

[National Endowment for the Humanities Releases 2018 Summer Programs for Teachers](#)

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

[National Academies Requests Nominations for Study on the Well-Being of Military Families](#)

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

[ASA Accepting Applications for Science Policy Fellowship](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEATURED NEWS

Save the Date: 2018 COSSA Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day -- April 30 & May 1

COSSA's 2018 Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day will take place on April 30 and May 1, 2018 in Washington, DC. The Conference brings together COSSA members and other stakeholders for a day of discussion about federal policy impacting our science followed by the only annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social and behavioral sciences. Early bird registration will open later in December. More details will be posted on the [Conference webpage](#) as they are made available.

COSSA IN ACTION

SRCD Answers "Why Social Science?"



This week's *Why Social Science?* guest post comes from Martha Zaslow, Director for Policy and Communications at the Society for Research and Child Development, who writes about ways the social sciences can tell us how to "grow the roots" of STEM learning in children. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Budget Deal to Raise Spending Caps in Negotiation; Senate Releases Remaining Appropriations Bills

Congressional leaders have [indicated](#) over the past few weeks that they plan to extend the current continuing resolution under which the government is operating past its December 8 expiration date. Extending the continuing resolution will give Congress more time to wrap up fiscal year (FY) 2018 appropriations and reach a deal to raise spending caps. According to the latest reports, Congressional Republicans are proposing an increase of \$54 billion in defense spending and \$37 billion in nondefense spending, which includes federal science agencies, for the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years.

While the House of Representatives completed its work on the [FY 2018 appropriations](#) in September, the Senate has moved more slowly; only eight of the twelve spending bills have passed the Appropriations Committee, and none have received a vote of the full Senate. The remaining four spending bills were [released last week](#) and will likely be considered by the Appropriations committee in the coming days. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) added in his statement regarding the FY 2018 appropriations outlook that the Committee needs a new budget deal to finish their work, as much of their proposed spending is higher than the statutory spending caps in the *Budget Control Act*.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Administration Considering Controversial Pick for Census Deputy Director

The Trump Administration is [reportedly](#) considering naming Thomas Brunell, a political science professor at the University of Texas, Dallas, as the next Deputy Director of the Census Bureau. The pick has raised concerns for Census stakeholder groups both because Brunell has no prior government experience and would be the top operations official overseeing the decennial census, the government's biggest non-wartime operation, and because his selection would appear to politicize what has historically been a non-political position. Brunell has testified on behalf of Republican redistricting efforts and is the author of a 2008 book called *Redistricting and Representation: Why Competitive Elections Are Bad for America*. Brunell was originally considered for the Census Director position (still vacant and without a nominee after the departure of John Thompson in June), but did not successfully complete the vetting process.

Jeffrey H. Anderson Appointed BJS Director

The Trump Administration has [announced](#) that it intends to appoint Jeffrey H. Anderson as director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the principal statistical agency housed within the Department of Justice. Anderson most recently served as Director of the Department of

Health and Human Services' Office of Health Reform, after his appointment was announced in May 2017. He is a former Hudson Institute Senior Fellow and co-founder of the 2017 Project, a conservative policy organization. Anderson holds a Ph.D. in political science from Claremont Graduate University. The position of BJS Director does not require Senate confirmation, so Anderson can begin serving as soon as he is officially appointed. Jeri Mulrow is currently serving as the Bureau's Acting Director.

National Endowment for the Humanities Releases 2018 Summer Programs for Teachers

The [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH) has released information about its 2018 [tuition-free summer programs](#), which it offers each year to provide an opportunity for K-12, college, and university educators to study a variety of humanities topics. These programs focus on specific topics, texts, and questions in the humanities and promote connections between teaching and research in the humanities. Additionally, the NEH offers stipends to help cover the cost of travel and living expenses for these one- to four-week programs. The applications for summer 2018 programs are due March 1, 2018. More information and a list of topics is available [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

National Academies Requests Nominations for Study on the Well-Being of Military Families

The [Board on Children, Youth, and Families](#) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is requesting nominations for experts to serve on a new consensus committee to study the Well-Being of Military Families. The consensus study will examine the challenges and opportunities facing families of service members and identify effective strategies already known for supporting and protecting military children and families. The Board seeks experts in military children and families, stress development and resilience, family interactions, mental and social support services, and military systems. Nominations are due by Friday, December 1, 2017. More information can be found [here](#).

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ASA Accepting Applications for Science Policy Fellowship

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a COSSA governing member, is accepting applications for its [2018 Science Policy Fellowship](#). The fellowship is a full-year postdoctoral-level position, renewable for a second year, that offers fellows the opportunity to work to advocate for statistics and experience first-hand how federal science policy is formed. More information is available on [ASA's website](#). Applications are requested by December 31.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting](#), November 29-December 3, 2017, Washington, DC
- [The Lunch @ DC: Race, Class, and Politics in the Cappuccino City](#), December 7, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Annual NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Festival](#), December 8, 2017, Bethesda, MD
- [The Lunch @ DC: Trust, Engagement, and Governance: Democracy from the Bottom-Up](#), December 14, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting](#), January 3-6, 2018, San Diego, CA

- [Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting](#), January 4-7, 2018, New Orleans, LA
- [Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting](#), January 4-7, 2018, Salt Lake City, UT
- [American Historical Association Annual Meeting](#), January 4-7, 2018, Washington, DC
- [American Economic Association Annual Meeting](#), January 5-7, 2018, Philadelphia, PA
- [Society for Social Work and Research Annual Meeting](#), January 10-14, 2018, 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

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

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
 Boston University
 Brown University
 Carnegie Mellon 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
 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 Pittsburgh
 University of Texas, Austin
 University of Texas, San Antonio

Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University

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

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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.

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