



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COSSA Statement on the Impacts of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and 2021 Budget Caps on Social Science Research

Washington, D.C. — The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) calls on Congress to negotiate a budget deal that will undo the harmful cuts to nondefense discretionary programs that are slated to take effect as a result of lowered spending caps in fiscal years (FY) 2020 and 2021. Without Congressional action, our nation faces deep cuts in the coming fiscal years in funding for critical programs—affecting investments in every sector of our economy, including scientific research and data. If Congress does not act, the misguided austerity policies of the *Budget Control Act of 2011* (BCA) will govern funding for the next two fiscal years.

Almost every national priority—health, defense, agriculture and conservation, hazards and natural disasters—relies on science and engineering; the social and behavioral sciences play an important role in helping to address the complex human-centered challenges our nation faces. If America is to continue its global leadership in science and innovation and keep pace with other nations that are doubling-down on their investments in research, we cannot afford to let arbitrary, across-the-board cuts to science and research agencies—including the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and data-producing statistical agencies—hinder scientific progress.

Congress and the White House must work together to avoid these cuts and provide new resources that will allow the country to address critical unmet funding needs and new opportunities in our nation's underfunded science and statistical agencies.

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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. 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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