

May 24, 2022 | Volume 41 Issue 10

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Featured News

Congress Begins Marathon of Conferencing Work for Innovation & Competitiveness Package

On May 12, 107 members of the House and Senate comprising the conference committee for U.S. innovation legislation held their first meeting to begin work on reconciling their bills. As [previously reported](#) the House of Representatives passed the *America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing Pre-Eminence in Technology and Economic Strength (COMPETES) Act of 2022 (H.R. 4521) in February. The nearly 3,000-page package is comprised of several bills and other provisions related to advancing the U.S. STEM enterprise and shoring up U.S. scientific competitiveness, especially with respect to China. The COMPETES bill is the House’s response to the *U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA)* that passed the Senate last year ([see past coverage](#)). While the bills are similar in their overarching goals, key differences remain, including their respective approaches for reauthorizing the National Science Foundation and establishing a new tech transfer-focused directorate at the agency.*

Earlier this year, House and Senate leadership announced who they have selected to serve on the conference committee charged with reconciling differences between the two bills (House [Democrats](#), House [Republicans](#), Senate [Democrats](#), Senate [Republicans](#)). The conference officially kicked off on May 12 when the Senate Commerce Committee

hosted the first meeting, chaired by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA). The hearing provided the opportunity for each member to give two-minute opening statements about their priorities within the bills. Consistent with past hearings, there were significant differences in the way Republicans and Democrats discussed the bills. Democrats largely focused on the need to revitalize the U.S. R&D enterprise and issues related to the supply chain and other competitiveness issues, while Republicans were laser-focused on competition with China and protecting the U.S. from so-called bad actors. All told, 94 members of the conference committee provided opening statements during this first, marathon meeting, illustrating just how divided members are on many of the bills' provisions.

Work will continue over the next few months, with some expressing hope that a final agreement can be reached by July 4.

New from COSSA

NCFR President Norma J. Bond Burgess Answers "Why Social Science?"



This week's [Why Social Science?](#) post comes from Norma J. Bond Burgess, President of the National Council on Family Relations, who writes about the importance and role of family science in understanding and improving family relationships.

COSSA Seeks Assistant Director of Government Relations

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is seeking to fill one position for Assistant Director of Government Relations. The desired candidate will have at least three (3) to five (5) years of professional advocacy, policy or related experience. Previous lobbying experience or experience working on Capitol Hill is preferred. Interested applicants should check the complete listing [here](#).

Congressional News

House Committee Marks Up ARPA-H Authorization Legislation, Advances to House Floor

On May 18, the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee [marked up](#) several pieces of legislation including the *Advanced Research Project Agency for Health (ARPA-H) Act (H.R. 5585)*, authorization legislation for the newly established health research agency. During the markup, the bill championed by the E&C Health Subcommittee Chair Anna Eshoo (D-CA) was amended to explicitly state that ARPA-H would be established as an "independent operating division within the Department of Health and Human Services" and directs the Biden Administration to transfer ARPA-H away from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), pushing back on the Administration's recent move to house it in NIH ([see previous coverage](#)). In addition, the amended legislation authorizes \$500 million per year for ARPA-H, far below the \$1 billion appropriated for the agency for fiscal year (FY) 2022. With the legislation headed to the House floor, it is likely that inter-party disagreements about ARPA-H will be highlighted. Stay tuned for more coverage about ARPA-H [here](#).

Congress Holds FY 2023 Budget Hearings for NIH

Over the past few weeks, the House and the Senate held their respective budget hearings for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for fiscal year (FY) 2023, hearings that typically feature the NIH director and several of the directors of NIH's institutes and centers (ICs). On May 11, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) held its [hearing](#) led by Full Committee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK). Witnesses included Acting Director of NIH Larry Tabak, Director of the National

Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Diana Bianchi, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Gary Gibbons, Acting Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Doug Lowy, and Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Nora Volkow. In their opening statements, DeLauro and Cole both praised NIH for its work and indicated they were interested in continuing to grow the agency's budget in a bipartisan manner. However, while both DeLauro and Cole also expressed support for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) (see related article), each aired several concerns with its recent transfer into NIH. DeLauro stated that "placing ARPA-H within NIH is a mistake and will hamper the agency's ability" to make health research breakthroughs, with Cole agreeing. In addition, both were wary that the base NIH budget may get squeezed to afford increases to ARPA-H, and Cole was hesitant to provide large increases of funding for ARPA-H without a director, physical location, or infrastructure. Additional questions from the Committee concerned the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, maternal health research, increasing the number of early-career researchers, research in minority health and health disparities, and more. A recording of the hearing is available on the [Subcommittee website](#).

On May 17, the Senate LHHS Subcommittee held its [hearing](#) led by Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Roy Blunt (R-MO). Witnesses included Tabak, Fauci, Gibbons, Volkow, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Josh Gordon, and Director of the National Institute of Aging (NIA) Richard Hodes. Murray expressed support for several NIH priorities in her opening statements such as research on Alzheimer's disease and how they might be addressed by the Senate's proposed authorization legislation for ARPA-H, the *Advanced Research Projects Authority for Health Act* ([S. 3819](#)). Blunt also expressed praise for NIH and for sustaining the budget for the agency, but also stated his support for establishing ARPA-H with some level of independence within NIH. Other members of the Subcommittee questioned the witnesses on issues such as the closure of the Undiagnosed Disease Network, addressing growing mental health crises, the use of vaccination requirements in workplaces, developing early career researcher opportunities, and more. Witness testimony and a recording of the hearing is available on the [Subcommittee website](#).

Executive Branch News

NIH Council Approves Report on Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Integration

During the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Council of Councils Meeting on May 19-20, a [report](#) on the Working Group on Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (BSSR) Integration was presented and approved by the Council. The report, which was presented by Acting Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) and Acting Associate Director for BSSR at NIH Dr. Christine Hunter, is the work of the working group chartered by the Council of Councils and charged with examining the proportion of NIH research with a significant social or behavioral component and the representation of BSSR in the expertise of those within NIH. The report finds that while BSSR is relevant across each of the Institutes and Centers (ICs) at NIH, there are "significant gaps and variation in BSSR integration across the NIH." Several recommendations for NIH were made in the report including:

- Better incorporating and integrating BSSR into IC and NIH-wide strategic plans;
- Evaluating and monitoring the distribution of BSSR staff across the agency;
- Aligning NIH Advisory Council representation to have two minimum members with BSSR or public health expertise;
- Working with OBSSR to identify opportunities to increase BSSR applications at ICs with low BSSR usage;
- Increasing centers, resource grants, and trial networks that include a BSSR focus;
- Increasing resources allocated to OBSSR for staff and programs; and
- Engaging BSSR expertise throughout the development of new research policies and practices.

The members of the Council of Councils were largely supportive of the report and its findings, with some questions directed to Dr. Hunter regarding the importance of research grant success rates, the “shockingly low” amount of BSSR used at some of the ICs, and, given the wide range of application of BSSR, calls that it be better utilized in improving public health. The [working group report](#) and the [presentation slides](#) are available on the Council of Councils website.

Science Community News

National Academies Release Report on Improving Representation in Clinical Trials and Research

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) have released a report titled [Improving Representation in Clinical Trials and Research: Building Research Equity for Women and Underrepresented Groups](#), which aims to identify existing challenges and potential solutions to the lack of representation of populations such as women and ethnic minority groups in clinical research studies. According to the report, the underrepresentation of populations in clinical trials and research does much to harm the clinical research enterprise by compromising research findings’ usefulness to the whole population, costing hundreds of billions of dollars, hindering innovation and effective health discoveries, and undermining trust in research and medicine. The report also cites several barriers to participation in clinical trials and research by underrepresented populations including poorly designed individual research studies, structural barriers at medical institutions, decision making by research or industry funders, and biases in medical journals.

The report provides recommendations to improve representation in clinical trials and research through improvements to reporting and accountability of demographic data, incentivizing inclusion through federal incentives, developing clear guidelines for compensating research participants and their caregivers, and fostering diversity and inclusion practices in educational and workplace settings with all entities involved in clinical trials and research. The report is available for download on the [National Academies website](#).

COSSA Member Spotlight

Social, Behavioral, and Economic COVID Coordinating Center Launches New Website & Resources

The [Social, Behavioral, and Economic COVID Coordinating Center \(SBE CCC\)](#), an effort led by the University of Michigan’s Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), recently developed a new website with a host of resources on coordinating research efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic. The SBE CCC acts as an information hub for communication about COVID-19 research, information-sharing between researchers, and sharing opportunities among the social, behavioral, and economic sciences community. Among the resources available on the new website are breaking news stories about COVID-19 research, podcasts and webinars, and publications featuring topics related to social, behavioral, and economic research on COVID-19. Check out the website [here](#).

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- 5/20/2022: [Letter to Congress in Support for FY 2023 Funding for the Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)

- 5/11/2022: [Letter to Congress in Support for 302\(b\) Allocations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees](#)
- 5/10/2022: [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Letter to Congress in Support for FY 2023 Funding for NIH](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- AHRQ: [Nominations for Members: National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality](#) (Closes: August 1, 2022)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Call for Nominations: Tipping Points, Cascading Impacts, and Interacting Risks in the Earth System](#) (Closes: June 3, 2022)

Funding Opportunities

- NSF/TIP: [Convergence Accelerator Phases 1 and 2](#) (LOI Due: May 31, 2022) (Closes: July 20, 2022)
- **NEW:** NIH: [IMPROVE Initiative: Implementation Science to Advance Maternal Health and Maternal Health Equity](#) (Closes: July 17, 2022)
- NSF/TIP: [NSF Regional Innovation Engines \(NSF Engines\) Program](#) (Concept Outline due: June 30, 2022)
- NIH: [Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory - Pragmatic and Implementation Trials of Embedded Interventions](#) (Closes: June 18, 2022)
- NIH/NCI: [Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: June 16, 2022)
- NIH/NCI: [Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health \(R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (Closes: June 16, 2022)
- NIH/NCI: [Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: June 5, 2022)
- NIH: [BRAIN Initiative: Targeted BRAIN Circuits Projects- TargetedBCP \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (Closes: June 1, 2022)
- NIH: [BRAIN Initiative: Targeted BRAIN Circuits Planning Projects – TargetedBCPP \(R34 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#) (Closes: June 1, 2022)
- SSRC: [The Mercury Project: Call for Proposals](#) (rolling deadline)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- **NEW:** NIH/NCCIH: [Request for Information: Identification of a Set of Determinants for Whole Person Health](#) (Closes: June 17, 2022)
- ED/IES: [Request for Information on the Existence and Use of Large Datasets to Address Education Research Questions](#) (Closes: May 31, 2022)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Request for Information: Challenges and Opportunities in Health and Science Communication Research](#) (Closes: May 27, 2022)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** UM/ICPSR: [Social, Behavioral, & Economic COVID Coordinating Center](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Fostering Responsible Computing Research](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Improving Representation in Clinical Trials and Research](#)

Upcoming Events

- [NASEM Webinar: The Future of Work](#), May 31, 2022
- [Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting](#), May 31-June 3, 2022, Seattle, WA
- [NASEM Science Communication Colloquium: Reimagining Science Communication in the COVID Era and Beyond](#), June 1-6, 2022

- [NIH Matilda White Riley Behavioral and Social Sciences Honors](#), June 3, 2022
- [COSSA Headlines | June, June 9, 2022](#)
- [NSF Virtual Grants Conference](#), June 6-10, 2022, Alexandria, VA
- [Law and Society Association Annual Meeting](#), July 13-16, 2022, Lisbon, Portugal
- [COSSA Headlines | July, July 14, 2022](#)
- [American Psychological Association Annual Convention](#), August 4-7, 2022, Minneapolis, MN
- [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), August 4-7, 2022, Denver, CO
- [American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), August 5-9, 2022, Los Angeles, CA
- [Joint Statistical Meetings](#), August 6-11, 2022, Washington, DC
- [COSSA Headlines | August, August 11, 2022](#)

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 bgoodrich@coossa.org.

COSSA 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
 Law and Society Association
 Linguistic Society of America
 Midwest Political Science 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
 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
 Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
 Association of American Law Schools
 Association of Research Libraries
 Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
 Economic History Association
 History of Science Society
 Midwest Sociological Society
 National Association of Social Workers

Colleges and Universities

Boston University
 Brown University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Duke University
 George Mason University
 Georgetown University
 Harvard University
 Indiana University
 Johns Hopkins University
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Michigan State University
 North Carolina State University
 Northwestern University
 Ohio State University, The
 Pennsylvania State University
 Princeton University
 San Diego State University
 Stanford University
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 University of California, Berkeley
 University of California, Irvine
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 University of California, Santa Barbara
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 University of Maryland
 University of Michigan
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 University of Nebraska, Lincoln
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Texas, Austin
 University of Virginia
 University of Wisconsin, Madison

National Communication Association
National Council on Family Relations
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Personality Assessment
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of
Social Issues
Southern Political Science Association
Southwestern Social Science Association

Affiliates

SAGE Publishing
Wiley

Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social
Science
Center for Advanced Study in the
Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Center for Social Sciences
Institute for Social Research, University of
Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NORC at the University of Chicago
RTI International
Social Science Research Council

About COSSA

*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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ISSN 0749-4394



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