



# STAND FOR SCIENCE



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## Congress Must Stand Up for and Support All Sciences

American Psychological Association (APA) 2017 Briefing Sheet (FY 2018)

### APA Thanks Congress for Legislation Passed in late 2016 and 2017:

- The 21st Century Cures Act provides additional funds for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The bill reauthorizes the NIH through FY 2020 and provides \$4.796 billion in funding over ten years for several key initiatives including the Precision Medicine Initiative, Cancer Moonshot, brain research and Alzheimer's research. The bipartisan bill also addresses key national health issues including mental health services and opioid abuse.
- The bipartisan, bicameral American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (S. 3084) was passed without including previous House language that would have slashed funding at the National Science Foundation (NSF) for behavioral and social science research.
- The omnibus legislation that provided funding for federal programs through the end of FY 2017 included a welcome \$2 billion increase for NIH and level funding for the research programs at the NSF.

### APA Asks Congress to Take These Actions in 2017:

Past Congresses – including members of both chambers and all political affiliations – have taken a strong stand for science in the face of challenges as great as those facing the nation today. APA and its 115,700 members and affiliates across the country urge the 115th Congress to stand for science by taking the following actions:

- Reject the Trump Administration's FY 2018 Budget Blueprint which calls for unprecedented cuts to federal science agencies. The budget proposes major cuts to nondefense discretionary programs, such as science and education, to pay for a \$54 billion increase in defense and homeland security spending. The budget would cut \$7.2 billion from NIH, approximately 21 percent from the FY 2017 level, which would result in 1,946 fewer grants. At a time when Congress has come together with bipartisan success to increase funds for NIH, this budget is discordant with the preferences of Congress and the American people. The National Science Foundation would receive a cut of approximately \$820 million compared to 2017, a cut of 11 percent. The budget would cut the Department of Education by 14% and the Environmental Protection Agency by 31%.
- Support significant, sustained increases in FY 2018 appropriations for research budgets of the NIH, NSF, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Justice, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Department of Education.



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- Oppose cuts to NSF’s Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate in any new reauthorizations, and oppose any amendments that single out social and behavioral science projects for cuts or additional or different standards of review from the rest of the Foundation.
- Support an end to sequestration and take a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not rely solely on discretionary spending cuts. The broken budget process is a real threat to science in the U.S. Although the Bipartisan Budget Act provided much needed boosts to the federal science agencies for FY 2016 and 2017, sequestration returns in 2018, jeopardizing the sustainability of these increases.
- Support the high quality merit review programs in place at the NIH and NSF. Their highly competitive grant review processes ensure that every grant that receives federal funding has been fully vetted and demonstrated its value. We urge Congress to reject: 1) legislative language that looks to restrict agencies such as NSF to fund basic research in all scientific disciplines under the guise of “improving” the merit review system while actually imposing politically-motivated, scientifically inappropriate, or unnecessarily duplicative regulatory layers; and 2) “wastebank-type” reports that imply these and other agencies fund wasteful research.
- Allow federal scientists to travel to scientific meetings; empower agencies to choose which scientific advisers are most appropriate; and refrain from imposing partisan or ideological tests on research results. Federal science agencies must be permitted to make the most of their budgets and missions by having the management flexibility and resources to fulfill their charge to the public.

The American Psychological Association (APA) is a scientific and professional organization of more than 115,700 psychologists and affiliates. For more information, please contact **Patricia Kobor** at 202.336.5933 or [pkobor@apa.org](mailto:pkobor@apa.org).

Updated June 20, 2017