



STAND FOR SCIENCE



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Congress Must Stand Up for and Support All Sciences

American Psychological Association (APA) 2018 Briefing Sheet (FY 2019)

APA Thanks Congress for Legislation Passed in 2018!

- In February 2018, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 was approved, which raised the fiscal year (FY) 2018 and 2019 spending caps by \$312 billion in additional spending for both defense and nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs. This is a major victory for research advocates who weighed in strongly and frequently about inadequate NDD budgets.
- In March 2018, congressional appropriators approved, and the President signed, a \$1.3 trillion funding bill, the Consolidated Appropriations Act (aka the omnibus) for FY 2018. The bill repudiated many of the proposed cuts and reorganizations that appeared in President Trump's FY 2018 budget. The increases included a \$3 billion, 8.3 percent increase, for the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, including \$414 million for Alzheimer's research and \$500 million for opioid research. The Trump budget had proposed a 22 percent cut to NIH.
- The **National Science Foundation (NSF)** would receive a 3 percent increase overall (\$7.8 billion), an increase of \$295 million over FY 2017, and a 5 percent increase to its research account (\$6.3 billion). The omnibus bill includes no language regarding cuts to the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate.
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** would receive \$8.3 billion, about \$1.1 billion above the FY 2017 level. The bill includes language that tweaks the ongoing amendment affecting CDC's research on firearms violence prevention. The language makes clear that such research is permitted while continuing to emphasize that CDC research may not advocate or promote gun control.
- The **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** received an additional \$10 million, for a total of \$334 million, despite ongoing efforts by the Administration to defund the agency and its FY 2019 proposal to integrate it with NIH.
- The **Institute of Education Sciences (IES)** in the Department of Education would receive \$613 million, an \$8 million increase over the FY 2017 level. It is worth recalling that in FY 2010, the IES budget was \$660 million, but this increase is a step in the right direction.

Thank You!



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APA Asks Congress to Take These Actions in 2018:

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 2019 budget, which calls for deep cuts to domestic spending including the federal science agencies. NIH and NSF are roughly flat funded, but the NSF Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate would receive a 9.1 percent cut compared to FY 2017. CDC would be cut by \$878 million and the Prevention and Public Health Fund (currently 12 percent of CDC’s budget) would be eliminated, and AHRQ would be defunded and folded into NIH.
- Support significant, sustained increases in FY 2019 appropriations for the scientific research budgets of the NIH, NSF, CDC, AHRQ, Department of Education, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Justice.
- Oppose cuts to NSF’s Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate in any new legislation, and oppose any amendments that single out social and behavioral science projects for cuts or different standards of review from the rest of NSF.
- Support an end to sequestration and “raise the caps” once and for all. The broken budget process is a real threat to science in the United States. Although the Bipartisan Budget Act provided much needed boosts to the federal science agencies for FY 2018 and 2019, sequestration returns in 2020, jeopardizing the sustainability of these increases.
- Support the high quality merit review programs in place at the NIH and NSF. Their extremely 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 legislative language that restricts agencies such as NSF from funding basic research in all scientific disciplines under the guise of “improving” the merit review system.

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.

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