Congress must stand up for and SUPPORT ALL SCIENCES
American Psychological Association (APA) 2019 Briefing Sheet (FY 2020)

APA Thanks Congress for Science Funding 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.

In September of 2018, Congress enacted five of the twelve appropriations bills including those for Labor-Health and Human Services-Education and the Department of Defense (DoD). The remaining government programs including the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Homeland Security were fully funded by omnibus legislation in February, 2019.

Highlights of the Fiscal Year 2019 programs with completed funding include

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, a $2 billion or 5 percent increase, bringing the total to over $39 billion. Alzheimer’s research increased $425 million to $2.3 billion total.

- Modest increases to most HHS programs. The **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** received an increase of $4 million and retained its independence after the Trump administration had proposed subsuming it into NIH.

- The **Institute for Education Sciences (IES)** in the Department of Education received $615 million, an increase of $2 million.

- The **National Science Foundation (NSF)** received $8.1 billion, a 4 percent increase over FY 2018.

Thank You!
APA Asks Congress to Take These Actions in 2019

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 118,400 members and affiliates across the country urge the 116th Congress to stand for science by taking the following actions:

• **Support significant, sustained increases in FY 2020 appropriations for scientific research budgets** of the NIH, NSF, AHRQ, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and Departments of Defense, Education, Justice, and Veterans Affairs.

• **Monitor the Trump administration’s FY 2020 budget**, and reject any calls for deep cuts to domestic spending including to the federal science agencies. Federal agencies were asked to prepare draft budgets cut by 5% from the FY 2018 baseline.

• **Reauthorize the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)** which funds research to improve health care and promote patient engagement.

• **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 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.

• **End sequestration. It’s time to “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. Should Congress fail to act, drastic cuts would be required to reduce current funding levels below the sequestration caps.

The American Psychological Association (APA) is a scientific and professional organization of more than 118,400 psychologists and affiliates. For more information, please contact Patricia Kober at 202.336.5933 or pkober@apa.org.

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