

U.S. Senate Commends NIH Demographic Research Programs

On June 27, the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations printed a report, #110-107, to accompany its version of the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The bill includes funding for two agencies very important to the Population Association of America and Association of Population Centers—the National Institutes of Health and the National Center for Health Statistics. The report included provisions commending the demographic research programs at the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

National Institute on Aging

Demographic and Economic Research- The Committee urges the NIA to sustain its commitment to the Demography of Aging centers program and continue its current support of the economic and demographic components of the Roybal Centers for Applied Gerontology. Finally, the Committee commends the NIA for elevating the dialogue surrounding global aging issues by hosting with the Department of State the Summit on Global Aging.

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Demographic Research- The Committee applauds the NICHD for its strong support of demographic research, which has resulted in a greater understanding of such topics as family dynamics and immigration. The NICHD is encouraged to provide additional resources on research that addresses the future of America's families, including the forces affecting birth rates and family investments in children. The Institute should also actively support opportunities for interdisciplinary research into the complex socioeconomic and biological mechanisms that produce health disparities within our population. To ensure the continued vitality of this program, the Committee urges the NICHD to maintain its levels of investment in demographic training and infrastructure support.