

Public Affairs Update

Fiscal Year 2007 Appropriations Enacted—Finally!

On February 15, the President signed into law House Joint Resolution (HJR) 20, a bill to fund non-defense federal programs for the remaining seven and a half months of Fiscal Year 2007. Since the last fiscal year ended on September 30, 2006, most federal agencies were being funded by a series of continuing resolutions. The HJR 20 funded most federal programs at their FY 2006 levels. However, Congress provided additional funding for several federal agencies and programs that it deemed worthy of an increase.

Several of these agencies are very important to the Population Association of America (PAA).

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The resolution provides an increase of \$620 million for NIH over the agency's FY 2006 level. NIH estimates that the additional funding is sufficient to support 500 additional research project grants in 2007. The bill also appropriates \$483 million for the Common Fund, a fund used to support trans-NIH projects. The fund was permanently established as part of the NIH Reform Act, which was enacted earlier this year. In previous years, NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) contributed a uniform percentage of their appropriations to the Fund; Congress didn't specify the Fund amount. From now on, Congress will provide a direct appropriation to the Fund. By removing this tap, all of the ICs received a slight increase in FY 2007, allowing them to stabilize their paylines and fund some major initiatives. The resolution also includes \$69 million, an increase of \$58 million, for the National Children's Study. .

Census Bureau

The bill preserves the President's request of \$694.1 million for the 2010 census, Economic Census, and other activities in the Periodic Censuses and Programs account, allowing the Census Bureau to continue development of GPS-equipped handheld computers for use in the 2008 Dress Rehearsal and 2010 census, as well as full implementation of the American Community Survey.

As with most other federal programs, the bureau's Salaries and Expenses (S&E) account was held at Fiscal Year 2006 levels for the current year. The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is among the ongoing social and economic statistics programs covered by the S & E account. Thus, SIPP will continue in 2007. The Bureau will continue its work, however, on its proposed replacement of SIPP, the Dynamics of Economic Well Being System (DEWS).

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Congress exempted NSF's Research and Related Activities (R&RA) from the FY 2006 freeze. This allowed R&RA to increase from \$4.449 billion in FY 2006 to \$4.766 billion in FY 2007. Funding for the agency's education and human resources and other budget lines, however, was not increased above their FY 2006 levels.

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and US Agency for International Development (AID) were not increased above their FY 2006 funding levels.

Below is a table comparing the final FY 2007 appropriations with the President's 2008 budget request.

Agency / Institute	(\$Millions)		% Difference
	FY 2007	FY 2008	
National Institutes of Health	\$28,910.00	\$28,600.00	-1.07%
National Institute on Aging	\$1,047.00	\$1,047.00	0.00%
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	\$1,254.00	\$1,265.00	0.88%
National Center for Health Statistics	\$109	\$109.90	0.83%
National Science Foundation	\$5,916.00	\$6,430.00	8.69%
Census Bureau	\$889.60	\$1,230.00	38.26%
USAID FP/RH	\$435.80	\$324.80	-25.47%

Fiscal Year 2008 Debate Begins

Debate over the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bills will dominate the congressional calendar this spring and summer. Appropriations committees in the House and Senate are currently holding hearings. The House of Representatives hopes to complete action on all of its appropriations bills by the Fourth of July.

PAA is working with its partners in a variety of coalitions to promote the needs of our agencies of interest.

- As members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research and Coalition for Health Funding, PAA supports efforts to increase NIH funding by 6.7% over its 2007 funding level for a total of \$30.8 billion in FY 2008. This funding level is needed to restore the agency's lost purchasing power over last three years and to account for biomedical inflation in 2008. PAA also hopes Congress will provide \$111 million in new money to continue implementation of the National Children's Study in 2008.
- As members of the Census Project, PAA supports providing the Census Bureau with \$1.23 billion in 2008—the funding level proposed by the President. This funding is needed to sustain planning for a reengineered 2010 Census and to conduct the ongoing American Community Survey as a replacement for traditional census long form.
- As members of the Friends of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), PAA supports providing the agency with \$117 million in FY 2008, an increase of just \$8 million over FY 2007. In particular, NCHS needs this funding to ensure uninterrupted collection of vital statistics. Without a funding increase, the agency estimates it will only have enough money to fund the collection of 10 months

worth of vital statistics data. The funding is also needed to restore the agency's other important data collection and analysis initiatives.

- As members of the Coalition for National Science Funding, PAA supports the Administration's request for the National Science Foundation (NSF) of \$6.4 billion, a 6.8% increase over the 2007 request. This funding is needed to continue implementation of the American Competitiveness Initiative and to strengthen the nation's capacity for scientific discovery and innovation.
- PAA has joined organizations in the international reproductive health community to express concern about proposed cuts in AID's family planning and reproductive health programs that fund research as well as direct services. The Administration has recommended a 25% reduction from the amount Congress appropriated for these programs in FY 2007.

PAA has submitted written testimony in support of the NIH, NCHS, NSF and Census Bureau. The testimony will be posted on the PAA Public Affairs link.

PAA in Washington DC

2007 Courtesy Visits—On March 8 and 9, a delegation of PAA members (Dr. Alberto Palloni, Dr. Michael White, Dr. Linda Jacobsen, Dr. Jennifer Glass, Dr. Douglas Ewbank, and Dr. Douglas Wolf) participated in thirteen courtesy visits with majority and minority staff on the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations subcommittees and on the House and Senate Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittees and at the National Institutes of Health. The purpose of these visits was to highlight the importance of NIH-funded demographic research advances and the contribution Census Bureau data make to the field.

Congressional Briefings

On February 12, PAA and APC sponsored a briefing on Capitol Hill, entitled "Changing Demographics of the Middle East: How Policies and Programs Affect Stability in the Region." Four members of Congress (Congressman Rush Holt (D-NJ), Congressman Mark Kirk (R-IL), Congressman Danny Davis (D-IL), and Congressman Russ Carnahan (D-MO)) and five organizations (the Consortium of Social Science Associations, Population Action International, Population Council, Population Reference Bureau, and Population Resource Center) cosponsored the briefing, which was attended by approximately 80 individuals from Capitol Hill, the Executive Branch and outside organizations. The following speakers participated in the briefing, Dr. John Bongaarts, Population Council, Dr. Farzaneh (Nazy) Roudi, Population Reference Bureau, and Dr. Allan Hill, Harvard University. Their slides are posted at www.popcenters.org.

On April 20, PAA cosponsored a briefing organized by the Population Resource Center, "Immigrants and Child Health Policy: The Implications for SCHIP Reauthorization." PAA member, Dr. Randy Capps, Urban Institute, participated in the briefing.

Global Summit on Aging—On March 15, the National Institute on Aging and Department of State sponsored a half-day Summit on Global Aging. Speakers, including PAA members Dr. James Vaupel, Dr. David Wise, and Dr. Raynard Kington, participated in the summit, which included a series of presentations on issues related to the economic, health, social, and security implications of global aging. The summit coincided with the release of a joint U.S. State Department and NIA report, “Why Population Aging Matters: A Global Perspective.” The Report is available at <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/or/81537.htm>. Secretary Rice delivered the summit’s keynote address.

Other News Highlights

NSF Reauthorization--On May 2, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1867, a bill to reauthorize the National Science Foundation (NSF). The bill, which needs to be reconciled with proposals passed by the Senate, would double the agency’s funding over a ten-year period by providing \$16.4 billion for research. The authorization also improves funding rates for young researchers and stimulates higher risk research by establishing a pilot program of one-year seed grants for new investigators. During debate in the House of Representatives, members defeated two amendments that would have eliminated funding for nine grants funded by the Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate.

National Children’s Study— On March 2, the National Children's Study (NCS) issued a request for proposals to award contracts for up to 20 new study centers. These centers will manage operations in 30 communities across the United States. The request for proposals represents the next step in implementing the study, which began in 2005 with the awarding of contracts to seven initial, or Vanguard, centers in seven U.S. communities. In February, the Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Dr. Duane Alexander announced that the Institute of Medicine (IOM) would be conducting a scientific review of the NCS protocol in 2007.

Census Bureau Deputy Director selected—In February, Preston J. “Jay” Waite was named deputy director of the U.S. Census Bureau. He replaces Hermann Habermann, who retired in January after announcing his resignation in November 2006. Mr. Waite was promoted from his position as Associate Director for Decennial Census. He began his career at the Census Bureau in 1971 and served previously in the agency’s Demographic and Economic program areas. Teresa Angueira, the Assistant Director for ACS and Decennial Census, has been named Acting Associate Director for Decennial Census.

For more information about PAA public affairs activities, you can visit the new public affairs link on the PAA home page at:

<http://www.popassoc.org/PublicAffairsCommittee.html>