



Population Scientists Urge Passage of Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015

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The Population Association of America (www.populationassociation.org) and Association of Population Centers (www.popcenters.org) congratulate Congressional leaders and the President for negotiating HR 1314, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. The proposal provides our nation with a responsible plan for resolving the current funding stalemate and replacing the harmful effects of sequestration in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

We are particularly pleased that the proposal eases sequestration for defense and non-defense discretionary spending by equal dollar amounts in both years. PAA and APC, as members of NDD United (www.nddunited.org), have been urging Congress and the Administration to replace sequestration with a balanced approach and to raise existing caps on federal spending. By raising the spending caps in FY 2016 and 2017, the proposal paves the way for Congress to more adequately fund programs important to the population sciences, including the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and National Center for Health Statistics.

Recent budget shortfalls have eroded key surveys, threatening the future of key federal datasets and delaying crucial planning for designing and implementing the next decennial census—the lynchpin of federal statistical data.

Once passed, Congress must complete work on an omnibus appropriations measure that restores funding for federal statistical agencies that have been hard hit in the past few years as a result of budget austerity, and also provides adequate funding for research programs that support demographic and population science research.

The Population Association of America (PAA) and Association of Population Centers (APC) are two affiliated organizations that together represent over 3,000 population scientists, including demographers, economists, sociologists and statisticians, and over 40 federally-funded population research centers nationwide.