

Population Association of America/ Association of Population Centers

Office of Government and Public Affairs

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The **Population Association of America** (www.populationassociation.org) and **Association of Population Centers** (www.popcenters.org) are two affiliated organizations that together represent over 3,000 population scientists, including demographers, economists, sociologists and statisticians, and almost 40 federally-funded population research centers nationwide. Population scientists conduct scientific research on the implications of population change. Their research expertise covers a wide range of issues, including but not limited to: adolescent health and development, aging, health disparities, immigration and migration, marriage and divorce, education, social networks, housing, retirement, and labor.

PAA/APC's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Priorities

Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee

National Institutes of Health (NIH) » Support the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research recommendation, \$36.2 billion. PAA and APC support this request, which is \$2.1 billion above the final FY 2017 enacted level, and represents real growth above the projected rate of biomedical inflation (2.4%). We oppose the Administration's proposed **21% cut** for NIH in its FY 2018 request of \$26.9 billion, reversing the trajectory of steady growth that has been embraced by Congress over the past several fiscal cycles. Sustained growth in the NIH budget is necessary to support ongoing behavioral, social, and biomedical research at over 3,000 U.S. institutions. Funding is also critical to sustain NIH-funded longitudinal surveys, databases, and population research centers, all of which develop scientific research to help save and improve lives and train the next generation of population scientists.

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) » Support Friends of NCHS recommendation, \$170 million. This request is \$10 million above the agency's FY 2017 funding level and \$15 million above the Administration's request. After years of level funding, PAA and APC urge Congress to invest in NCHS to support ongoing implementation of electronic death records nationwide to provide faster, better vital statistics and help the agency make necessary survey redesign and systems improvements.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) » Support an increase over the Administration's request of \$608 million. The BLS has endured stagnant funding for several years, which has taken a toll on staffing and could ultimately threaten data quality. An increase in funding is necessary not only to sustain existing surveys, such as the National Longitudinal Surveys program and the American Time Use Survey, but also to support the agency's other critical functions.

Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee

Census Bureau » Support funding at \$1.8 billion, consistent with the agency's projected needs. This proposed increase of \$330 million over the FY 2017 funding level is necessary to prepare for Census 2020, including expanded use of administrative records and unprecedented use of technology to collect and process census responses. Funding these innovations could ultimately save taxpayers \$5 billion over the lifecycle of the next decennial census. PAA and APC also urge Congress to support the Administration's request of \$251 million to sustain and improve the American Community Survey.

National Science Foundation (NSF) » Support the Coalition for National Science Funding's requests of \$8 billion, a roughly \$600 million increase, or 7.2%, above the FY 2017 funding level. The request includes an investment to support fundamental science funded by the NSF Social, Behavioral and Economic Directorate, which has stagnated at level funding for three years. Adequate funding is critical to maintain the U.S. edge in investment in basic scientific research.

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) » Support the Friends of BEA's request of \$105.4 million, a modest \$1.9 million increase and an amount that, when accounting for inflation, represents level funding compared to the enacted FY 2017 funding. We oppose the Administration's proposed \$6.5 million cut for BEA, a decrease of over 6 percent. Moreover, we are concerned that the Administration proposes eliminating the Economics and Statistics Administration, which supports the vital work of the Commerce Data Service and the Commerce Data Advisory Council.

State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) » Support an increase in funding for bilateral and multilateral family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) account. Maintain sufficient funding to support agency's research evaluation activities, especially the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) program. The Administration FY 2018 request would zero out the family planning and reproductive health account entirely. Although the DHS program is funded in part by other federal agencies and some international sources, the loss of core USAID funding nonetheless jeopardizes the important programmatic work and data collection that the DHS funds.

To ensure strong federal statistical and scientific infrastructure that supports the population sciences, PAA and APC, as members of NDD United, urge Congress and the Administration to forestall the return of sequestration in FY 2018--either through an agreement to raise the caps temporarily (as was accomplished with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015) or by ending sequestration altogether.

