

**Statement by Juliane Baron, Executive Director
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences**

**Prepared for the House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies**

**FY 2021 Appropriations for the National Institutes of Health, National Center for
Health Statistics, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Institute of
Education Sciences**

March 23, 2020

The Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS) represents 26 scientific societies and nearly 70 university departments whose scientific members and faculty share a commitment to advancing knowledge in the sciences of mind, brain, and behavior. These sciences can help us to understand the human element of our most pressing challenges, with the potential to improve the health and education of our citizens. FABBS appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the federal agencies investing in behavioral and cognitive science. For fiscal year (FY) 2021, **FABBS encourages your subcommittee to provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a budget of at least \$44.7 billion; the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within the Center for Disease Control, a budget of at least \$189 million; the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) at \$471 million; and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) within the Department of Education a budget of \$670 million.**

FABBS would like to thank members of the Labor HHS Appropriations Subcommittee for your strong bipartisan vision and diligence last year. The community is extremely grateful that this subcommittee successfully completed a final Labor, Health and Human Services, Education budget for FY 2020, sparing these agencies from experiencing an extended government shut down. We very much hope that we will see similar success funding these agencies for FY 2021.

National Institutes of Health. We sincerely thank the Subcommittee for its diligent work and considerable increases to NIH over the past four years. As members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research and the Coalition for Health Funding, **FABBS recommends at least \$44.7 billion for NIH in FY 2021.** FABBS members contribute to the NIH mission of seeking fundamental knowledge about the behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. FABBS members contribute to the advances in numerous NIH Institutes and Centers (IC).

FABBS members have a particular interest in the **Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research.** OBSSR was created to coordinate and promote basic, clinical, and translational behavioral and social science research at NIH and plays an essential role, enhancing trans-NIH investments in longitudinal datasets, technology in support of behavior change, innovative research methodologies, and promoting the inclusion of behavioral science in initiatives in partnership with ICs, OBSSR co-funds highly rated grants that the ICs cannot fund alone, and coordinates NIH's high-priority program on gun violence prevention research.

While the NIH budget has grown in recent years, funding for OBSSR has not seen commensurate increases. We recognize that, located in the Office of the Director, OBSSR does not have a specific appropriation. Nonetheless, FABBS appreciates the opportunity to express support for OBSSR, underscore its key role supporting the mission of NIH, and raise concerns about recent flat funding.

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Center for Disease Control - As members of the Friends of NCHS, FABBS urges the Subcommittee to appropriate **\$189 million (an increase of \$14.6 million and realignment of \$14 million in ongoing transfers) to NCHS in FY 2021**. This increase would restore the NCHS budget to the FY 2010 funding level, adjusted for inflation, enabling NCHS to continue to produce its essential existing surveys and reports without interruption. Communities across the country rely on the high-quality data provided by NCHS to understand and improve health. We greatly appreciate the Subcommittee's longstanding support of NCHS and the data it produces on all aspects of our health care system, such as opioid and prescription drug use, health care disparities, and causes of death.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Consistent with the Friends of AHRQ, FABBS requests \$471 million for AHRQ in FY 2021. AHRQ is the only federal agency that funds research at universities and other research institutions throughout the nation on health systems—the “real-life” patient who has complex comorbidities, the interoperability of different technological advances, and the interactions and intersections of health care providers.

Institute of Education Sciences (IES), U.S. Department of Education - As members of the Friends of IES, FABBS encourages the subcommittee to appropriate at least **\$670 million to IES in FY 2021**. This funding level would restore IES to the FY 2011 real dollar purchasing power level. IES is a semi-independent, nonpartisan branch of the U.S. Department of Education and is the research foundation for improving and evaluating teaching and learning. The four centers—the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), National Center for Education Research (NCER), National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) and National Center for Education Evaluation (NCEE)—work collaboratively to efficiently and comprehensively produce and disseminate rigorous research and high-quality data and statistics.

We recognize the pressing need to raise the budget caps. Accordingly, we have been working in collaboration with the broad scientific society, as well as with state and local colleagues, in health, education, and hundreds of other groups affected by non-defense discretionary funding, to encourage members of Congress to raise the caps so that we can complete the budget process, fund vital research, and keep our government working.

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for the following FY 2021 budget requests:

- **National Institutes of Health at least \$44.7 billion**
- **National Center for Health Statistics at least \$189 million**
- **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality at least \$471 million**
- **Institute of Education Sciences at least \$670 million**

These investments to strengthen behavioral and cognitive research are critical to the health and education of our citizens. Thank you for considering this request.

FABBS Member Societies:

Academy of Behavioral Medical Research, American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, American Psychosomatic Society, Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback, Association for Behavior, Analysis, Behavior Genetics Association, Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Cognitive Science Society, International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society, National Academy of Neuropsychology, The Psychonomic Society, Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Society for Computers in Psychology, Society for Judgement and Decision Making, Society for Mathematical Psychology, Society for Psychophysiological Research, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Society for Research in Child Development, Society for Research in Psychopathology, Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Society for Text & Discourse, Society of Experimental Social Psychology, Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology, Vision Sciences Society

FABBS Affiliates:

APA Division 1: The Society for General Psychology; APA Division 3: Experimental Psychology; APA Division 7: Developmental Psychology; APA Division 28: Psychopharmacology and Substance Abuse; Arizona State University; Binghamton University; Boston University; California State University, Fullerton; Carnegie Mellon University; Columbia University; Cornell University; Duke University; East Tennessee State University; Florida International University; Florida State University; George Mason University; George Washington University; Georgetown University; Georgia Institute of Technology; Harvard University; Indiana University Bloomington; Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis; Johns Hopkins University; Kent State University; Lehigh University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Michigan State University; New York University; North Carolina State University; Northeastern University; Northwestern University; The Ohio State University, Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences; Pennsylvania State University; Princeton University; Purdue University; Rice University; Southern Methodist University; Stanford University; Syracuse University; Temple University; Texas A&M University; Tulane University; University of Arizona; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Davis; University of California, Irvine; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Riverside; University of California, San Diego; University of Chicago; University of Colorado, Boulder; University of Delaware; University of Houston; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; University of Iowa; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Massachusetts Amherst; University of Michigan; University of Minnesota; University of Minnesota, Institute of Child Development; University of North Carolina at Greensboro; University of Pennsylvania; University of Texas at Austin; University of Texas at Dallas; University of Washington; Vanderbilt University; Virginia Tech; Wake Forest University; Washington University in St. Louis; Yale University