

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

**FY 2022 Appropriations for the National Institutes of Health
and the Institute of Education Sciences**

submitted for the record to the

**United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies**

**Honorable Patty Murray, Chairwoman
Honorable Roy Blunt, Ranking Member**

June 24, 2021

Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS) is grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony for the record in support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) budgets for fiscal year (FY) 2022. FABBS represents twenty-seven scientific societies and over sixty university departments whose members and faculty share a commitment to advancing knowledge of the mind, brain, and behavior. **For fiscal year (FY) 2022, FABBS encourages your subcommittee to provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a budget of at least \$52 billion and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) within the Department of Education a budget of \$700 million.**

Our members are thankful that appropriators were able to secure \$42.9 billion for NIH and over \$646 million for IES in FY21. We also appreciate the supplemental appropriations to NIH and IES included in COVID-19 response legislation. At NIH, these funds have played a central role in the pandemic response, not only developing vaccines and treatments but also supporting behavioral research to inform public health strategies. At IES, these investments are already helping to conduct essential research into the learning disruptions caused by the pandemic and providing educators the tools to chart a path forward for students. We hope to see similar success funding these agencies' vital contributions in FY22.

National Institutes of Health

We sincerely thank the Subcommittee for its diligent work and considerable increases to NIH in recent years. As members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research and the Coalition for Health Funding, **FABBS recommends at least \$52 billion for NIH in FY 2022.** 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.

OBSSR is an integral component of many high-profile NIH programs and initiatives:

- OBSSR has played a role in the fight against COVID-19, supporting behavioral and social science research to address the pandemic and disseminating best practices to encourage uptake of COVID-19 vaccines. The Office, for example, has made over 50 awards to study mitigation efforts, the long-term health and health care effects of the resulting economic downturn, and potential interventions to limit these effects.
- The Office also coordinates NIH's high-priority program on gun violence prevention research, identifying effective public health interventions to prevent firearm violence, and the trauma, injuries, and mortality resulting from it.
- Additionally, OBSSR is central to the NIH UNITE initiative to end structural racism and racial inequalities in health research. A working group of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Coordinating Committee is responsible for examining OBSSR-funded research on racism and health to inform broader agency-wide efforts to promote inclusion within NIH and in the research it funds.

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 and highlight that additional funding should enable the Office to expand its work addressing the behavioral, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, measuring the effects of mitigation strategies on vulnerable individuals and communities in preparation for future pandemics, while maintaining its broad work in support of the NIH mission.

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 \$700 million to IES in FY 2022**. At this critical juncture, a significant increase in IES funding is essential to addressing learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and better preparing American students for the future.

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.

Already, the Institute has done important work to gauge the impact of school closures on students, teachers, and school leaders, while providing evidence-based guidance and technical assistance to inform school reopening plans and support instruction in remote and hybrid learning. IES launched *Operation Reverse the Loss* to identify specific and actionable interventions that can reverse learning losses for clearly identified populations of students.

Robust funding for IES in FY22 will allow the Institute to continue its important work studying the effects of and developing strategies to address learning loss due to COVID-19 and create a stronger educational system.

Thank you for considering this request.

FABBS Member Societies:

Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, American Psychosomatic Society, Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback, Association for Behavior Analysis International, Behavior Genetics Association, Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Cognitive Science Society, International Congress of Infant Studies, International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society, National Academy of Neuropsychology, The Psychonomic Society, Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Society for Computation 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:

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