

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

**FY 2023 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**

May 11, 2022

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) 2023. FABBS represents twenty-seven scientific societies and over fifty university departments whose members and faculty share a commitment to advancing knowledge of the mind, brain, and behavior. **For FY 2023, FABBS encourages your subcommittee to provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a budget of at least \$49 billion and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) within the Department of Education a budget of \$815 million.**

National Institutes of Health

FABBS thanks the Subcommittee for the consistent increases to NIH in recent years. As a member of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research and the Coalition for Health Funding, **FABBS recommends at least \$49 billion for NIH in FY 2023** and suggests that any funding for other targeted programs supplement the base budget, rather than supplant the essential foundational investment in the NIH.

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.

- **Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR)**

FABBS members are especially grateful for the increase of over \$9 million to OBSSR included in the joint explanatory statement for the FY 2022 appropriations legislation. This growth to the Office's baseline budget provides OBSSR with consistent and reliable funding to provide essential support across NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs).

OBSSR coordinates and promotes 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 able to leverage investments across the NIH to broadly improve the quality and effectiveness of federally funded research. We encourage the committee to once again express its strong support for this integral office.

- **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)**

FABBS members are particularly interested in NIMH, which serves as the premier federal agency responsible for developing a deeper understanding of and effective interventions to improve mental health and treat mental illness. We encourage you to provide robust funding for NIMH in FY 2023 commensurate with any increase to the overall NIH budget so that the institute can build upon the significant achievements to advance the behavioral, biomedical, and social research mission and important initiatives to provide new insights and solutions to all.

In your recent hearing reviewing the President's budget request for the Department of Health and Human Services, we were grateful to see a focus on mental health and bipartisan support for increases in mental healthcare funding related to both the 988 national suicide prevention lifeline and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.

To fully capitalize on these bipartisan committee priorities and improve the mental health of all Americans, we recommend that the committee continue to prioritize investments in the NIMH.

- ***Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)**

As a member of the Friends of NICHD, FABBS recommends that NICHD receive an increase in FY 2023 commensurate with any increase to the overall NIH budget. NICHD has facilitated extraordinary achievements in brain and behavioral research with far reaching implications for public health, maternal, child, and family health, and learning and language development.

For example, NICHD-funded researchers have recently:

- Shown that infants of mothers in low-income households receiving monthly cash payments were more likely to show faster brain activity in a pattern associated with learning and development at later ages.
- Devised a procedure for amputations below the knee that allows for sensory feedback from a prosthetic limb, and used machine learning to improve the interface of brain-controlled prosthetics, making them easier to use.

- Discovered that a certain plant compound could one day be administered to expectant mothers as a treatment to improve cognitive outcomes for people with down syndrome.
- Surveyed child forensic interviewers to develop new benchmarks to aid in preventing, treating, and reducing childhood abuse and neglect.

Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)

FABBS appreciates the funding for ARPA-H included in FY 2022 appropriations, and we are grateful that this was independent of the NIH budget. As ARPA-H continues to take shape, we encourage the Subcommittee to ensure that additional appropriations for the Agency supplement, rather than supplant, funding for NIH.

FABBS was grateful for the opportunity to contribute to [OSTP-NIH listening sessions](#) on the proposed ARPA-H. We suggest that this new agency will be most effective if it takes a cross-disciplinary approach to questions that are not adequately addressed by the current organizational approach of NIH. These include investing in implementation science to bridge the gap between the latest scientific advances and medical practice.

Institute of Education Sciences (IES), U.S. Department of Education

We are grateful for the Subcommittee's work to ensure a funding increase for IES in the FY 2022 omnibus spending agreement. As members of the Friends of IES, **FABBS encourages the subcommittee to appropriate at least \$815 million to IES in FY 2023.** This funding level will allow the Institute to build on the FY 2022 enacted budget to maximize its capacity to advance innovative research, develop the methodological skills of education researchers, and continue to support high-quality and trustworthy statistics and evidence-based resources.

We are especially grateful that the FY 2022 omnibus provided IES with independent control over staffing. This new flexibility is key to capitalizing on new investments, and allows the Institute to be nimble, taking on high-impact approaches to research and implementation. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, IES launched [Operation Reverse the Loss](#) to identify specific and actionable interventions that can reverse learning losses for clearly identified populations of students. Ongoing support for dedicated staff will allow IES to continue its important work studying the nation's most urgent education questions and facilitating the implementation of new and effective strategies.

The Institute recently commissioned a [report on the future of education research](#) from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). The recommendations therein provide an exciting path forward for the agency, outlining approaches to move the field forward on issues of critical importance to education policy and practice and improve learner outcomes for all students. However, the report finds that "Given the breadth of what IES is expected to accomplish as mandated in ESRA [the Education Sciences Reform Act], its funding for both programmatic activities and staffing has historically been limited in comparison to other federal

science, research, and statistical agencies with similar objectives [and] in order to achieve the overarching vision presented through these recommendations, IES will require additional investments.”

Thank you for considering this testimony.

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, Flux: The Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, International Congress of Infant Studies, International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, 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:

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 College; Boston University; California State University, Fullerton; Carnegie Mellon University; Duke University; East Tennessee State University; Florida International University; George Mason University; George Washington University; Georgetown University; Harvard University; Indiana University Bloomington; Johns Hopkins University; Lehigh University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Michigan State University; New York University; North Carolina State University; The Ohio State University, Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences; Pennsylvania State University; Princeton University; Purdue University; Rice University; Southern Methodist University; Syracuse University; Temple University; Texas A&M University; Tulane University; University of Arizona; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Irvine; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Riverside; University of California, San Diego; University of Chicago; University of Delaware; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; University of Iowa; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Michigan; University of Minnesota; University of Minnesota, Institute of Child Development; University of North Carolina at Greensboro; University of Oregon; University of Pennsylvania; University of Texas at Austin; University of Texas at Dallas; University of Virginia; University of Washington; Virginia Tech; Wake Forest University; Washington University in St. Louis; Western Kentucky University; Yale University