

Population Association of America Association of Population Centers

Office of Government and Public Affairs

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August 3, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Blunt and Murray,

On behalf of the over 3,000 scientists who are members of the Population Association of America (PAA) (www.populationassociation.org) and the over 40 federally supported population research centers at U.S. based research institutions comprising the Association of Population Centers (APC), we are writing to express our support for passage of S. 3158, the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

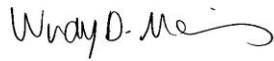
Population scientists include demographers, economists, and sociologists who conduct research on population trends and the individual, societal, and environmental implications of population change. They rely on the accurate and timely data from the federal statistical agencies, such as the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and discretionary grant support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to produce research findings and conduct research training activities. Thus, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, which funds NIH, BLS, and NCHS, is an important spending bill for our organizations.

We are very pleased that S. 3158, which is scheduled for floor debate starting August 15, proposes \$39.1 billion for NIH, \$161 million for NCHS, and \$615 million for BLS in FY 2019. These figures represent increases over the agencies' FY 2018 funding levels. If approved, these funding increases would give NIH, NCHS, and BLS necessary resources to support high-quality, peer reviewed research, modernize key economic and health surveys, make statistical data more accessible, and invest in essential research training programs. We are also pleased that the report (S. 115-289)

accompanying S. 3158 praises population research programs supported by the NIH and recognizes major research contributions from the population sciences.

As you know, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill has not been debated on the Senate floor since 2007. Our organizations credit you and your colleagues for negotiating a bipartisan bill and for working with the Senate leadership to bring this bill to the floor for an open debate. We support its final passage and will oppose any possible amendments that would reduce NIH, NCHS, and BLS funding levels or would undermine the peer review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy D. Manning".

Wendy Manning, Ph.D., President
Population Association of America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Ruggles".

Steve Ruggles, Ph.D., President
Association of Population Centers