

American Statistical Association Supports Funding for National Science Foundation and Federal Statistical Agencies

ASA seeks reversal of cuts for Census Bureau and Bureau of Justice Statistics

ALEXANDRIA, VA, JULY 12, 2011 – In a letter to Appropriations Committee leadership, the American Statistical Association (ASA) has requested that the committee reverse cuts to the budgets for the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In addition, the letter signed by ASA President-elect Robert N. Rodriguez, urges full funding of initiatives proposed by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) for FY12.

“...cuts to the Census Bureau’s budget will cost taxpayers billions of dollars in the long run,” Rodriguez said in the letter, “and, in these times, it is even more imperative that taxpayer money be well directed.” With Census Bureau Director Groves committed to capping 2020 per-housing-unit census costs at the 2010 levels, “the bureau’s plans and innovations... have the potential to save billions of dollars and improve accuracy,” the letter states.

“NSF funding supports the research that fuels American innovation, which in turn drives economic growth and job creation,” Rodriguez’ letter says. “Cuts to science research funding undermine America’s future economic growth.”

The letter points out that the economic statistical agencies (BEA, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Census Bureau) provide data that can help navigate economic recovery and the ultra-competitive global market. “Cuts to these agencies would seriously impair our decision-making ability.”

The letter closes with the request that Congressman Harold Rogers, Appropriations Committee chair, and Congressman Norm Dicks, ranking member, work with House Commerce, Justice and Science subcommittee leadership to restore the cuts and to fund some of NSF’s and BEA’s initiatives. “Doing so will strengthen the U.S. economy in the long run,” the letter states. The complete text of the letter can be viewed at <http://www.amstat.org/outreach/pdfs/HouseCJS.pdf>.

About the American Statistical Association

Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, the American Statistical Association is the world’s largest community of statisticians and the second oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. For 170 years, the ASA has supported excellence in the development, application, and dissemination of statistical science through meetings, publications, membership services, education, accreditation, and advocacy. Its members serve in industry, government, and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the ASA web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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