



1133 19th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036
PHONE: 202.737.5900 • FAX: 202.737.5526 • www.aaup.org

Capitol Hill Day – June 15, 2017

Trump Budget: Harmful Cuts to Research and Humanities Programs

President Donald Trump's proposed 2018 budget calls for massive cuts to K-12 and higher education. The budget also includes large funding cuts from programs that are vital to supporting research, cultural programs, and other programs that if underfunded we fear will genuinely undermine the quality of life in America.

The AAUP is opposed to these unprecedented cuts as a threat to quality education, research, and opportunity in the 21st century. The AAUP urges members of congress to protect funding for the following important programs:

National Institutes of Health / National Science Foundation

We oppose the proposed \$8 billion cut from NIH funding and a proposed \$776 million cut from the NSF. These cuts will stifle new, potentially groundbreaking and lifesaving research opportunities and could result in thousands of fewer research grants awarded. NIH and NSF grant funding contributes to job creation and significant economic benefit throughout the country, both directly and indirectly. We are also concerned that targeted cuts in the NSF budget towards atmospheric and basic sciences research creates a politically motivated chilling effect on the pursuit of knowledge.

National Endowment for the Humanities / National Endowment for the Arts

World statesman Winston Churchill would be appalled at the thought of eliminating the NEH and NEA: "The arts are essential to any complete national life," Churchill said. "The State owes it to itself to sustain and encourage them....Ill fares the race which fails to salute the arts with the reverence and delight which are their due." Since ancient times, great governments have provided funding for the arts and the humanities. The American government should not abandon a role in which it has been a global leader and has created great benefit for its citizens. Yet, the budget proposes to begin shutting down the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts in 2018.

International Education

In this increasing global economy, it is necessary for students and scholars to be able to learn and use foreign languages. But the Budget eliminates the International Education and Foreign Language Studies Domestic and Overseas Programs, which are designed to strengthen the capability and performance of American education in foreign languages and international

studies. It would also cut funding from the Fulbright program, which would hurt opportunities for American scholars.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars / US Institute Of Peace

The Wilson Center is a great center of learning where scholars from around the world can gather to share perspectives and research and try to find solutions to the world's conflicts. The U.S. Institute of Peace fulfills an idea by George Washington to create a peace academy. The Institute aims to help our national security by reducing conflict abroad. Nevertheless, in this troubled global time, the budget proposes to eliminate activities supported through Federal appropriations at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Any great nation like the United States should be expanding such aid, not reducing such a center for scholarly exploration.

Institute of Museum and Library Sciences

The budget proposes eliminating the Institute, which provides funding to museums and libraries across the country through formula and competitive grant awards. Eliminating the institute would cripple our libraries nationwide and further impoverish those citizens who depend on the libraries for research, entertainment, education, and even job searches. IMLS's funding supplements local, State, and private funds, which provide the vast majority of funding to museums and libraries.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting

PBS and NPR provide an invaluable service to the nation by providing Americans with quality programming through news, entertainment, and documentaries. Faculty are strongly supportive of PBS and NPR because of the high quality and educational content they provide. The budget proposes to eliminate Federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). The federal contribution is crucial to their operation.