



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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COSSA Statement on the *Combatting Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019 (H.R. 36)*

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) supports the *Combatting Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2018* (H.R. 36) as introduced by Representatives Eddie Bernice Johnson and Frank Lucas. The bill would provide funding to the National Science Foundation to establish a grant program to study the causes and consequences of sexual harassment in the scientific workforce, efficacy of interventions, and methods of remediating the negative impacts of sexual harassment. This legislation would also direct data collection about sexual harassment in science and establish an inter-agency working group to address this important issue.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that 58 percent of individuals in the academic workplace experience sexual harassment. The social and behavioral sciences are particularly well suited to study the cultures, power dynamics, and other factors that contribute to this problem. Sexual harassment in the scientific community is pervasive and results in loss of talent and diminished research integrity across all sciences. The *Combatting Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019* takes important preliminary steps in what must be a system-wide change in culture to prevent and respond to sexual harassment in science.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

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