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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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**PATIENTS, SCIENTISTS, INSTITUTIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS JOIN TO OPPOSE
MANDATORY INCREASE IN SBIR SET-ASIDE**

Bethesda, MD – Today, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) joined with a coalition of nearly 100 groups to send a letter to the Senate opposing the provision passed by the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to increase the portion of their budgets that federal research agencies must set aside for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program from 2.5% to 3.5%. The coalition, organized by FASEB in conjunction with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A•P•L•U) and the Coalition for Life Sciences (CLS), includes patient advocacy organizations, scientific and professional societies, higher education associations and research institutions.

FASEB President Richard B. Marchase explained, “We support the SBIR program and recognize the benefits of the participation of small businesses in scientific research. However, the best way to increase funding to SBIR is to increase total investment in federal research agencies like NIH and NSF. We cannot support an increase of 40% for one type of research at the expense of all others.”

“The increase in the SBIR allocation proposed by the Senate committee will, by their own account, redirect \$1 billion research dollars away from the world-class competitive peer-review system that funds the best science,” he said.

The letter points to the fact that small businesses are already free to apply for large pools of grant money through the same peer review process used by other types of institutions. Marchase also noted that there is currently no cap on the SBIR program, which provides agencies with the flexibility to fund additional meritorious SBIR grants at their discretion.

The coalition hopes to work with the House and Senate as reauthorization moves forward to address the set-aside issue. Marchase added, “The community of patients, scientists and research institutions has come together with one voice on this matter.”

To read the community letter and view a full list of signatories, [click here](#).

FASEB is composed of 22 societies with more than 90,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB enhances the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. Our mission is to advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences through service to its member societies and collaborative advocacy.