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Quality Life Through Research

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and Molecular BiologyAmerican Society for Pharmacology
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Genetics Society of America

American Federation for Medical
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Representing over 100,000
biological and biomedical
researchers.

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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

July 8, 2010

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiaht
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiaht:

As you prepare to mark-up the Fiscal Year 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS) Appropriations bill, the 23 societies and more than 100,000 researchers represented by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) urge you to appropriate \$37 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This funding level will allow NIH to continue on the path to discoveries leading to improved health of our nation's citizens, at a time when the opportunities for scientific advancement have never been greater.

In 2009, supplemental appropriations from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) restored purchasing power at NIH and provided a timely investment in biomedical research across the nation. The response of the scientific community to ARRA was extraordinary. Thousands of promising new studies are now underway and open more opportunities for the cures, treatments, improved diagnostics, and prevention strategies of the future.

If, in fiscal year 2011, we return to pre-ARRA levels, we could diminish NIH's research capacity by more than 15 percent in constant, inflation-adjusted dollars. This reduction would translate to a loss of nearly 4,000 grants and have devastating consequences for many critical research projects that have benefited from ARRA support. Predictable, long term plans for federal investment in science have substantial advantages over "boom and bust" cycles. Now more than ever we need to facilitate coordination and planning, encourage investments by other segments of the research community, attract new talent to careers in science, reduce the start-up cost of projects, and eliminate the waste inherent in abrupt terminations of valuable scientific investigations. Despite the fragile economy, now is not the time to retreat from our historic commitment to innovation and discovery. We must nurture our research investment to benefit from the knowledge that we have gained and ensure that continued progress is not curtailed.

In closing, we request that you support a funding level of \$37 billion for NIH in the Fiscal Year 2011 LHHS Appropriations bill. NIH needs sustainable and predictable budget growth to achieve the full promise of medical research to improve the health and longevity of all Americans. We appreciate that the LHHS appropriations bill provides funding for a wide range of critical human service programs and thank you for recognizing that prosperity and quality of life are increasingly shaped by investments in medical research.

Sincerely,



President