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## **FASEB ENDORSES CONGRESSMAN BARTON'S NIH REAUTHORIZATION BILL, APPLAUDS LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO MEDICAL RESEARCH**

*Bethesda, MD* – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has endorsed Representative Joe Barton's (R-TX) bill to reauthorize the National Institutes of Health (NIH), applauding the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) committee chairman's sustained leadership in support of NIH.

In a letter to Barton, FASEB President Leo T. Furcht, M.D. wrote, "[F]ASEB is proud to join with [Chairman Barton] in paving the way for reinvigorated investment in our nation's medical research agency." According to Furcht, who will testify next week before Barton's committee, "Chairman Barton has successfully developed a model for NIH that both improves upon the current system and preserves those aspects that have made NIH the world's leading medical research organization."

In particular, the FASEB President lauded the Chairman's determination to authorize increases for NIH during the period of reauthorization, as well as the emphasis in the bill on investigator-initiated competitive research, referred to in the letter as the "highly successful mechanism through which many of our most effective medical advances have been made." "The enormous promise of medical and scientific research will not be realized without continued support," said Furcht. "We truly appreciate not only Chairman Barton's willingness to champion NIH funding, but also his recognition of the critical role of ideas generated by individual investigators."

FASEB also endorsed the legislation's conception of a 'common fund' for cross-cutting, multiple-institute initiatives, noting that many such projects are currently ongoing. "The 'common fund' would further encourage this practice, enhancing the overall program, building on the individual expertise available within each institute, and stimulating multidiscipline-based approaches," stated Furcht, who went on to commend the bill's creation of an evaluation and reporting system to assess the NIH research portfolio.

"We believe strongly that it is essential for NIH to inform both the public and Congress of the value of the research it supports," Furcht said. "Chairman Barton has outlined a vision for increased transparency, accountability and innovative progress that can only serve to generate renewed appreciation for the lifesaving research supported by NIH. FASEB looks forward to working with Congress to move this groundbreaking piece of legislation forward."

To read the full letter, please click [here](#).

*FASEB is composed of 21 societies with more than 80,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB's mission is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists in those areas related to public policy, facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies and disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.*