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**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**

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**FASEB APPLAUDS SENATORS SPECTER, HARKIN AND DURBIN FOR SUPPORT OF NIH**

*Bethesda, MD* – “Senators Harkin and Specter are true champions for biomedical research,” according to Richard Marchase, Ph.D., President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). Referring to the amendment passed last night by the Senate, which adds additional funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to the economic recovery package, Marchase added, “Millions of Americans who suffer from devastating illnesses like cancer and Alzheimer’s disease, as well as the hundreds of thousands whose jobs depend on NIH funding, owe a great deal to these leaders.”

The amendment, which was co-sponsored by Senators Harkin (D-IA), Specter (R-PA), and Durbin (D-IL), would add an additional \$6.5 billion for NIH, an agency whose budget has been eroded by inflation after six years of flat-funding. “Money invested in NIH is distributed to labs at universities and small businesses in every state in the nation, helping to stimulate local economies and retain jobs,” said Marchase. “It is our hope that the economic recovery package is one step forward towards a long-term, sustainable investment in medical research.”

*FASEB is composed of 22 societies with more than 80,000 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.*