



Member Societies

The American Physiological Society
American Society for Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
American Society for Pharmacology and
Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Investigative Pathology
American Society for Nutrition
The American Association of Immunologists
American Association of Anatomists
The Protein Society
Society for Developmental Biology
American Peptide Society
Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities
The American Society for Bone and Mineral
Research
American Society for Clinical Investigation
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Teratology Society
The Endocrine Society
The American Society of Human Genetics
Society for Gynecologic Investigation
Environmental Mutagen Society
International Society for Computational Biology
American College of Sports Medicine

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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

----Quality Life Through Research----

April 15, 2008

Dear Senator :

I am writing to strongly encourage you to support the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). On behalf of the 21 scientific societies and more than 80,000 biomedical researchers represented by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), I ask you to please support all procedural motions necessary to ensure passage of this critical legislation.

The mapping of the human genome has unveiled a vast, new wealth of information. Our understanding of the genetic underpinning of disease is growing at an exponential rate, and major breakthroughs in medicine are inevitable. This data will one day reveal every person's genetic predisposition to a variety of diseases and conditions. While this can be used as an important tool to prevent and treat disease, it can unfortunately also be misused as a weapon to discriminate against individuals.

Current law does not provide sufficient protection against misuse of genetic information in health insurance and employment decisions. Furthermore, scientists rely on voluntary participation in research studies to further advance our understanding of the functioning of genes in health and disease. Passage of a federal law against genetic discrimination will eliminate some of the concerns, whether real or perceived, that have deterred participation in genetic research studies or discouraged individuals from seeking genetic testing. Clinical and translational research is a crucial piece of the research enterprise, and in order to fully realize the potential of personalized medicine, it is imperative we pass GINA.

This legislation has broad bipartisan support in the Senate, having been passed twice unanimously in two previous Congresses, as well as passing in the House by a vote of 420-3. Moreover, GINA has received widespread endorsement by hundreds of organizations, including scientific societies, academic research institutes, patient advocates, clinicians, industry, and community groups.

We thank you in advance for your support of America's health and look forward to working with you towards swift passage of GINA.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Palazzo, Ph.D.
FASEB President