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**FASEB CELEBRATES SENATE PASSAGE OF GENETIC INFORMATION
NONDISCRIMINATION ACT (GINA)**

Bethesda, MD – “We now have another reason to celebrate on National DNA Day,” said FASEB President Robert Palazzo, Ph.D., applauding Senate passage of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). “This long-overdue legislation will provide the necessary protections against misuse of genetic information, allowing us to fully realize the potential of personalized medicine.”

Palazzo praised Senator Edward Kennedy for his leadership in championing GINA, as well as congratulating colleagues in the gene sciences, patient advocacy, and medical research communities. “Organizations and individuals have worked tirelessly with policymakers for more than a decade to pass these critical protections,” Palazzo stated. “These dedicated grassroots efforts, together with the work of lawmakers like Senator Kennedy, Senator Olympia Snowe, and Representatives Louise Slaughter and Judy Biggert, deserve enormous credit for making GINA a reality.”

FASEB has supported GINA in this and previous Congresses, and today thanked Senate leadership for bringing it to the floor for passage. “Scientists rely on voluntary participation in research studies to further advance our understanding of the functioning of genes in health and disease – voluntary participation which is deterred by fears over genetic discrimination,” said Palazzo. “Establishing legal protections for genetic information is a critical step forward for our clinical and translational enterprise.”

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 enhances the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB’s mission is to advance biological science through collaborative advocacy for research policies that promote scientific progress and education and lead to improvements in human health.