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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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FASEB CHALLENGES DNC, RNC TO SUPPORT HEALTH RESEARCH IN '08 PLATFORMS

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has submitted [testimony](#) to the platform committees of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and Republican National Committee (RNC), urging the inclusion of platform language that recognizes the critical role of biomedical research in safeguarding the nation's health.

“During a time when Americans are in crisis about how to care for their health, we must recommit to investment in research that helps us understand and ultimately cure chronic and deadly diseases,” said FASEB President Richard B. Marchase, Ph.D., who has spearheaded the organization's efforts to engage the public and policymakers on science issues in conjunction with the Presidential election.

Marchase added, “Including a declaration of support for federally funded scientific research in the 2008 platform statements is a crucial first step in fulfilling the promise of our national science agencies, and there is no better exemplar of that promise than the National Institutes of Health (NIH).”

The testimony submitted by FASEB outlines the pressing need for national investment in medical research: “Biomedical research funded by the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies has been responsible for nearly every medical advance of the last 50 years, and has spurred science and technology developments that have kept America on the leading edge of innovation. Federally funded, competitive biomedical research offers great hope for millions of patients through revolutionary progress in treating and curing disease.”

Marchase also remarked on several recent polls that show majorities of Americans are more likely to support candidates dedicated to national investments in scientific research. “The American people have already cast their vote for science. In coming weeks, with the eyes of the nation on the conventions in Denver and St. Paul, we look to our leaders to carry the torch forward. The future of our health and well-being depends on it.”

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.