

Contact: Carrie D. Wolinetz, PhD
(301) 634-7650
cwolinetz@faseb.org

FASEB CALLS ON JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TO MOVE ANIMAL ENTERPRISE TERRORISM ACT FORWARD

Bethesda, MD – “It is time to protect our researchers, their institutions and those who do business with them from the dangerous tactics of [animal rights] extremists,” declared Leo Furcht, M.D., President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) in a letter addressed to the House Judiciary committee. FASEB contacted the committee in support of H.R. 4239, the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, which is scheduled to be marked up today, urging the committee to move the bill forward towards passage by the full House. According to the letter, FASEB believes “it is critically important to provide the statutory tools necessary to protect those who have been targeted as victims by groups who advocate arson, personal assault, and vandalism as appropriate means to an end.”

Reiterating the importance of animal models in medical research, both in the past and in pursuit of medical breakthroughs, Furcht asserted, “Taxpayers dollars are being wasted through senseless acts of vandalism, animals are being harmed through ill-conceived ‘liberation’ attempts, and progress in medicine is being delayed as these groups continue to grow more violent and far-reaching in their efforts.” FASEB intends to contact the Senate Judiciary committee, as well, expressing support for the recently introduced, bipartisan Senate version of the bill, S. 3880. “Medical research has no greater champion than Senator Arlen Specter,” said FASEB President Furcht. “It is our hope that he will continue to protect our investment in the National Institutes of Health and our scientific talent by supporting this bill through his authority as Chair of the Judiciary committee. We hope to convey that animal rights extremists have become a serious impediment to the advancement of biomedical research.”

Furcht continued, “As Senator Specter knows, biomedical researchers are dedicated to improving the health, well-being and productivity of all people. They should be allowed to do so in safety and security, and we believe the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act will provide peace of mind to many dedicated scientists.”

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.