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**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**

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**FASEB OPPOSES AKAKA AMENDMENT TO AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS ACT**

*Bethesda, MD* – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) strongly opposes S.A. 1729, an amendment to H.R. 2744, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006. This amendment, sponsored by Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), would prohibit funding to biomedical research facilities that lawfully purchase animals from Class B dealers as designated under the Animal Welfare Act. FASEB sent [letters](#) expressing its opposition to members of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, including Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran (R-MS). “This amendment would have serious negative implications for biomedical research, which uses animal models to understand the fundamental processes of life and to help develop treatments for human injury and disease,” said FASEB President Bruce R. Bistrrian, MD, PhD.

Class B dealers are law-abiding—licensed and regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. FASEB believes research facilities should not be prevented from using these dealers to legally acquire stray or unwanted animals that may otherwise be put to death. “Protections are in place to make sure pets do not end up in research facilities,” said Bistrrian. “Animals from these regulated Class B dealers serve valuable roles in vaccine development, prostate cancer research, drug and therapy development for veterinary medicine, orthopedic studies and cardiovascular research, to name just a few.” Sen. Akaka’s amendment could irrevocably hinder research that potentially culminates in treatments for debilitating diseases. For more information on FASEB’s position on the use of animal models in biomedical research, please visit our website: [www.faseb.org](http://www.faseb.org)

*FASEB is composed of 23 societies with more than 65,000 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.*