

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

## **SCIENTISTS CELEBRATE PASSAGE OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO SUPPORT MEDICAL RESEARCH**

*Bethesda, MD* – Thousands of scientists urged their Senators today to support the National Institutes of Health (NIH), resulting in passage of a \$7 billion funding measure to support health and education agencies, including medical research programs. In response to a rallying cry by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), biomedical researchers across the nation contacted their Senators, calling on them to support an amendment offered by Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Tom Harkin (D-IA). The amendment to the FY2007 Budget Resolution added an additional \$7 billion to the budget for health and education programs, allowing appropriators the freedom to support the critical medical research at NIH, according to Jon Retzlaff, FASEB Director of Legislative Relations. “We had more than 8,400 letters sent in about 48 hours. When that many American scientists take time away from their labs and clinics- where they’re conducting life-saving cutting-edge research - to send a message to Congress, it is time for lawmakers to listen,” says Retzlaff.

FASEB President Bruce R. Bistran, M.D, Ph.D. agrees, “FASEB and the biomedical research community want Congress to understand that medical research translates to real treatments and real hope for real people. NIH is a top priority for the American people, and passing this amendment shows that it is a top priority for the budget, as well.” Passing this amendment may be the best opportunity to prevent reductions that could erode our nation’s investment in medical research, Bistran added. “Diminished support for NIH will result in lost scientific opportunities for medical breakthroughs and could needlessly prolong the suffering of millions of patients. FASEB looks forward to continuing to work with Congress to ensure that does not happen.”

FASEB, together with our 22 member societies and the more than 80,000 scientists they represent, offers our wholehearted gratitude to Senators Specter and Harkin for their leadership and vision in supporting medical research, as well as thanks to the entire Senate for passing the budget amendment. “The scientific community stands ready to confront and overcome challenges such as obesity, cancer, and Alzheimer’s disease. We are proud to have Senators Specter and Harkin, as well as other stalwart champions for NIH, at our side, and on the side of our nation’s health,” stated Bistran.

*FASEB is composed of 22 societies with more than 84,000 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.*