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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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**“WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET OUR INVESTMENT IN SCIENCE ERODE,”
FASEB CALLS ON CONGRESS TO SUPPORT NIH, NSF, AND DOE IN FY2007**

Bethesda, MD – “[We] respectfully request that you consider our nation’s premiere science agencies – National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), and Department of Energy’s Office of Science (DOE) – as important priorities in FY2007,” stated a letter from Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) President Leo Furcht, M.D., sent today to the Congressional leadership. “[S]upporting NIH, NSF, and DOE results in scientific breakthroughs and discoveries that promise to improve the health and quality of life of millions of people.”

“We appreciate the fact that Congress wishes to complete the FY 2007 appropriation cycle,” said Jon Retzlaff, FASEB Director of Legislative Relations. “It is our hope that in doing so they break the flat-funding trend experienced by NIH, and put NSF and DOE’s Office of Science on the path towards doubling, a proposal that has received strong bi-partisan support.” He added that the FASEB letter was sent to House Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, House Majority Leader Hoyer, Senate Majority Whip Durbin, Appropriations Committee Chairmen Obey and Byrd, House Minority Leader Boehner, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, and Appropriations Ranking Members Lewis and Cochran.

“We cannot afford to let our investment in science erode,” asserted Furcht. “NSF and DOE’s research budgets have been stagnant, NIH’s has lost tremendous purchasing power; we are, quite simply, losing our global position as the leader in science and technology. This is a trend that needs to be addressed now, not put off until the next fiscal year.”

FASEB is also activating its member society scientists, working in research institutions throughout the United States, urging them to contact their Congressional representatives in support of the federal science agencies. “To the working scientist, research funding is more than just numbers of grants or a line item in an appropriations bill. Loss of funding means loss of jobs, closing of laboratories, and discouraging the next generation of scientists. It means delaying the research breakthroughs and technologies that could win the war against disease, drive economic growth, or solve our society’s most pressing problems,” Furcht said.

“The new leaders in Congress have stated their enthusiastic support for medical research and for keeping our nation’s scientific enterprise competitive,” stated Retzlaff. “We would like to see that support begin as quickly as possible.”

The full FASEB letter may be read [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.