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**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**

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**FASEB PRAISES SENATORS HARKIN AND SPECTER FOR AMENDMENT TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH**

*Bethesda, MD* – “Senators Harkin and Specter’s dedication to improving the health and well-being of all Americans is awe inspiring,” said Leo Furcht, M.D., President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). “We are proud to support their leadership in bringing forward a budget amendment that would restore funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other critical health programs.”

Earlier today, FASEB [sent letters](#) to every member of the Senate, urging them to support the Specter-Harkin amendment, which would increase funding for health-related programs by \$2.2 billion over the proposed budget resolution. “The simple truth is that there is no progress in medicine, no hope for those suffering from diseases like cancer, heart disease, or diabetes, without medical research,” Furcht continued. “Years of essentially flat funding have eroded the enterprise to the point where scientists are spending all of their time desperately seeking funding or turning to other careers, rather than being able to focus on solving our most pressing health problems. This amendment recognizes the high priority the American people assign to health, scientific progress, and medical advancement.”

“Additional funding will give appropriators the freedom to support the life-saving research programs at NIH,” stated Jon Retzlaff, FASEB Director of Legislative Relations. “It is our sincere hope,” Furcht concluded, “that the Senate will pass this amendment swiftly and decisively. The scientific community stands ready to make the discoveries that will one day mitigate the suffering of millions of Americans stricken with illness. FASEB looks forward to working with Congress to reach this common goal and to ensure adequate funding for our nation’s health.”

*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 better—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.*