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‘DAY OF RENEWED HOPE,’ FASEB THANKS HOUSE FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SCIENCE, NIH

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) expresses its deepest appreciation to the U.S. House of Representatives for its commitment to the health of the American people and the hope provided by medical research, as illustrated through the addition of more than \$7 billion to the FY2007 budget resolution for important health and education programs.

Over the past two months, FASEB society member scientists have generated more than 15,000 letters, urging Congress to support life-saving discoveries at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). “The scientific community joined our voices with those of our fellow Americans, who are overwhelmingly in support of medical research that seeks to find treatments and cures for cancer, Alzheimer’s, diabetes and other devastating conditions,” said FASEB President Bruce Bistran, M.D., Ph.D. “We are grateful that the House responded, and are thankful we can continue our proud tradition of improving lives through science.”

“In particular, we would like to thank [Representative Mike Castle](#) for the tremendous leadership and dedication he has shown in organizing a group of moderate Republicans to support critical health, education and science programs,” Bistran continued. “Congressman Castle’s persistence in advocating for the health and vitality of our nation inspired his colleagues and House leadership to do the right thing in providing these funds.”

According to Jon Retzlaff, FASEB Legislative Director, “The additional money will allow appropriators to support NIH and the medical advances that are a direct result of their research grants. Moreover, FASEB is thrilled that adequate funding will be provided to accommodate the President’s Competitiveness Initiative, which provides funding to the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy’s Office of Science. Together with NIH, these agencies generate the scientific opportunities and breakthroughs which improve our quality of life and keep us at the forefront of technological progress.”

When asked what impact the House action would have, Bistran added simply, “For the scientist working in the lab, the physician caring for patients, and the person whose life is inalterably changed by illness, today is a day of renewed hope.”

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.