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FASEB CELEBRATES HOUSE PASSAGE OF ANIMAL ENTERPRISE TERRORISM ACT

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) would like to thank the United States House of Representatives for passing the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA). We applaud House Judiciary Chairman James Sensenbrenner for his leadership in ushering this bill through yesterday’s House vote. The AETA was passed through unanimous consent in the Senate in September. This is a momentous step in protecting biomedical researchers, their families, and business associates from animal rights extremism.

“Congress has sent a clear message to those who would target scientists and their families with campaigns of harassment, violence, and vandalism,” said FASEB President Leo Furcht. “Animal models are crucial for our understanding and treatment of human disease, and scientists deserve a safe research environment where they can continue to improve the health of all people.”

FASEB strongly believes that animal rights extremists have become a serious impediment to the progress of biomedical research, as well as to the safety of scientists themselves. “Taxpayers dollars are being wasted through senseless acts of vandalism, animals are being harmed through ill-conceived ‘liberation’ attempts, and precious progress in medicine is being delayed as these groups continue to grow more violent and far-reaching in their efforts,” Furcht wrote in a recent letter, urging the House to move the legislation forward. FASEB reiterated its support in a letter sent yesterday morning to all Representatives, asking for swift passage of the AETA.

According to Furcht, “FASEB and the entire biomedical research community are grateful to Congress for recognizing the threat posed by this fringe element of the animal rights movement and acting to protect our nation’s invaluable medical research enterprise. We hope that the President will follow their lead and sign the AETA into law without delay.”

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.