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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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## **FASEB PRAISES CONGRESS FOR PASSING NIH FUNDING BILL, CALLS ON PRESIDENT TO SIGN IT INTO LAW**

*Bethesda, MD* – “Our voice has been heard and we are going to keep up the pressure,” said Robert Palazzo, Ph.D., President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). “Congress deserves a lot of credit for listening to the scientific community and the American public in supporting health and education programs, including NIH. Hopefully, President Bush will follow their lead and show his strong support for medical research.”

Yesterday, the House and Senate passed the conferenced Labor-HHS FY 2008 appropriations bill, which included a funding level of \$30 billion for the nation’s medical research agency, the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The funding measure now goes to President Bush to be signed into law. “We had thousands of scientists, from all over the country, contacting their legislators and letting them know medical research is a national priority,” stated Jon Retzlaff, FASEB Director of Legislative Relations. “The biomedical research community is going to continue to make its voice heard, from the White House to the halls of Congress, until this bill becomes reality.”

“NIH represents hope to millions of patients, suffering from conditions ranging from cancer to Alzheimer’s disease,” said Palazzo. “The scientists funded by NIH, the breakthrough discoveries for which they are responsible, and the medical advances which ultimately result are overwhelmingly supported by the American people, and this is reflected in this bipartisan bill. President Bush should sign it 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 enhances the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—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.*