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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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FASEB SUPPORTS 'DEAR COLLEAGUE' FOR NIH, SUBMITS TESTIMONY TO HOUSE

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has contacted every member of the House of Representatives in support of a [Dear Colleague letter](#) to increase appropriations for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY2008. The letter, composed by Representatives Edward Markey (D-MA), David Reichert (R-WA), Henry Waxman (D-CA), Christopher Shays (R-CT), Janice Schakowsky (D-IL) and Christopher Smith (R-NJ), calls for a 6.7 percent increase in NIH funding.

“A 6.7 percent increase will put NIH on the path to recouping the loss caused by biomedical research inflation over years of diminished funding,” said FASEB President Leo Furcht, M.D. “FASEB [applauds](#) the more than 100 members of the House who have signed the Dear Colleague and urges their colleagues to do the same. We cannot make progress in medicine without medical research and providing NIH with sustainable funding is the only way to ensure continued improvements in the health of our citizens.”

FASEB also endorses the 6.7 percent increase for NIH in [public testimony](#) submitted to the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. The statement details the extraordinary medical accomplishments made possible by NIH funded research, including progress in heart disease, cancer, and infectious disease. “With the aging of our population and the rise of Alzheimer’s disease, as well as the rapid increase in diabetes and other obesity related conditions, we must be prepared to confront these new scientific and clinical challenges. This requires a long-term, sustained investment in biomedical research,” stated Furcht. “It is our hope that Congress will renew their commitment to the health and well-being of the American people through reinvigorated support of NIH.”

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.