



November 14, 2005

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Office of Public Affairs • 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20814-3998 • <http://www.faseb.org/opa>

Contact: Carrie D. Wolinetz, PhD
(301) 634-7650
cwolinetz@faseb.org

FASEB MOBILIZES SCIENTISTS IN SUPPORT OF SENATE FUNDING LEVEL FOR NIH

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has rallied its 23 societies and more than 65,000 scientists in support of the Senate-passed Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations legislation, which funds NIH in fiscal year 2006 at \$29.4 billion. This number represents a 3.7% increase from last year. In less than a week, FASEB's [alert](#) has generated more than 5,000 messages to Congress from biomedical researchers.

“FASEB is gravely concerned that if NIH is funded at the lower House-passed level of 0.5% and continues to receive similar increases in 2007 and 2008, the gains from the NIH doubling movement of 1998-2003 will be eliminated,” said FASEB President Bruce R. Bistran, MD, PhD. A chart demonstrating this funding erosion can be viewed [here](#). As part of the mobilization effort, FASEB has also asked its scientists residing in the subcommittee conferees' districts to write letters to the editors of their local media highlighting the importance of funding NIH at \$29.4 billion. “Without the proper funding, NIH will only be able to support between 15% and 20% of all applications that are submitted to the agency. Better ways to treat and cure diseases such as Parkinson's and diabetes may take much longer to discover,” Bistran stated. “The strong response by FASEB scientists shows Congress that we believe funding NIH at a sufficient level is crucial to maintaining the country's position as a leader of scientific research.”

FASEB is composed of 23 societies with more than 65,000 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.