



May 11, 2006

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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**FASEB CALLS ON CONGRESS TO SUSTAIN COMMITMENT TO NIH,
“SHORTCHANGING...NOT AN OPTION” SAYS PRESIDENT**

Bethesda, MD – “Scientists and the American people spoke and Congress clearly listened, but the conversation is far from over,” said Bruce R. Bistrrian, M.D., Ph.D., President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), referring to House Appropriation Chairman Jerry Lewis’ (R-CA) announcement that he would allocate an additional \$4 billion for health and related programs, including the vital medical research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

“FASEB is grateful to Chairman Lewis for recognizing and responding to the needs of patients whose only hope for treatment is kept alive by NIH, and to the researchers whose quest for scientific discovery has led to astounding advances in medicine,” Bistrrian continued. “However, we continue to support the efforts of Congressman Michael Castle (R-DE) and our champions in the Senate, particularly Senators Specter and Harkin, to prevent our investment in NIH and the tremendous progress we have made from being wasted.”

The problem, according to Jon Retzlaff, FASEB’s Director of Legislative Relations, is that the \$4 billion would only return the Labor-HHS subcommittee to FY2006 levels. While preferable to the cut proposed in the President’s budget, Retzlaff said, “Seventy-three Senators recognized the shortsightedness of the President’s proposal and voted to add roughly \$7 billion for priority health and education programs, including the NIH.” He added that while many in the House of Representatives also support this increase, “FASEB plans to help a majority of House members understand that \$7 billion would greatly help to mitigate the erosion of NIH’s research infrastructure, and avoid delaying lifesaving advances to people who desperately need them.”

“FASEB calls upon our leaders in Congress to acknowledge that health is held as the highest priority among our nation’s citizens,” stated Bistrrian, “The medical treatments that save people from dying from cancer or from heart disease, that prevent the spread of infectious diseases, that ease the symptoms of those suffering from chronic ailments like arthritis and Parkinson’s, are the direct result of federal investment in NIH and research. Rescinding or shortchanging that commitment should just not be an option, and we will continue to bring that message to elected policymakers.”

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.