



## Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

----Quality Life Through Research----

### Member Societies

The American Physiological Society  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Investigative Pathology  
American Society for Nutrition  
The American Association of Immunologists  
American Association of Anatomists  
The Protein Society  
Society for Developmental Biology  
American Peptide Society  
Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities  
The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research  
American Society for Clinical Investigation  
Society for the Study of Reproduction  
Teratology Society  
The Endocrine Society  
The American Society of Human Genetics  
Society for Gynecologic Investigation  
Environmental Mutagen Society  
International Society for Computational Biology  
American College of Sports Medicine

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May 2, 2007

Dear Representative:

I am writing in strong opposition to amendments to H.R. 1867, The National Science Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2007, being introduced by Representatives Scott Garrett and John Campbell on behalf of the 21 scientific societies, comprising more than 80,000 biomedical researchers, of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). These amendments, which would prohibit funding of peer reviewed grant projects at the National Science Foundation (NSF), could not be more threatening to the scientific peer review process and the quality of U.S. science.

The peer review process at our science agencies, including NSF, is the envy of the world and continues to ensure that we produce research of the highest merit. As Congressman David Obey said during the debate of a similar measure, "the day that we politicize...research, the day we decide which grants will be approved...that is the day that we ruin science research."

NSF has been our nation's premiere supporter of basic scientific research across scientific disciplines for more than fifty years, enabling the U.S. to stay at the forefront of science and engineering. This has been made possible largely through the funding of research proposals through the peer review system, which allows scientific experts to evaluate the merit of each project. Judging a project by its title is inadvisable and inappropriate; scientific discoveries arise from unpredictable pathways and interfering based on inadequate information could cause loss of crucial breakthroughs. It is without question Congressional disruption of the peer review process will cause irreparable harm to science and ultimately our quality of life.

When Representatives Garrett and Campbell bring their amendments to the floor, I strongly urge you to oppose them. Thank you on behalf of FASEB and the entire biomedical research community.

Sincerely,

Leo T. Furcht, M.D.