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FASEB PRAISES PROPOSAL TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR NSF AND DOE

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is gratified to see the funding levels presented in the [American Competitiveness Initiative](#), released yesterday by the White House, calling for a 7.8% increase in FY 2007 for the National Science Foundation (NSF), and a 14% increase for the Office of Science at the Department of Energy (DOE), as first steps in a long-term investment.

“We are in full agreement that NSF and DOE are critical to producing the fundamental knowledge and innovative ideas that enhance our economic productivity, improve the quality of our lives, protect our nation, and maintain America’s global competitiveness,” said FASEB President Bruce R. Bistrrian, M.D., Ph.D. He added that the Federation has long felt that these vital science agencies were underfunded, and is pleased to see a commitment to preserving our country’s proud tradition of science and technology. “Making the connection between the basic research funded by the federal agencies and the resulting technologies that benefit our daily existence is extremely important, and the White House proposal does an excellent job of illuminating that path.”

Moreover, FASEB firmly believes that science education, from elementary to graduate levels, is a critical component of preparing the workforce of the 21st century. According to Bistrrian, “Creating the next generation of scientists and engineers, and sustaining that pipeline of talent, is a crucial component of discovery and innovation.” The American Competitiveness Initiative’s emphasis on science education is commendable, in FASEB’s view, and sets the stage for protecting our nation’s future. “Our national investment in basic research and science education,” Bistrrian concludes, “is our greatest opportunity to advance the health and well-being of our country.”

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.