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**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**

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**FASEB THANKS SENATE FOR SUPPORT, SETS ITS SIGHTS ON HOUSE BUDGET**

*Bethesda, MD* – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has sent letters of gratitude to Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Tom Harkin (D-IA) as well as the 73 members of the United States Senate who voted for the Specter-Harkin amendment to the FY2007 budget resolution, and it is preparing to gear up for a budget battle in the House of Representatives. “We want to express our deepest appreciation to the Senators who joined together in a bipartisan show of leadership for our nation’s health and to thank Senators Specter and Harkin for their vision that made the result possible” said FASEB President Bruce Bistran, M.D., Ph.D. “The additional support for the critical medical research programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will provide hope for millions of patients who desperately need it.”

According to Jon Retzlaff, FASEB Director of Legislative Relations, the organization is now focused on progression of the House budget bill. “We are going out to our 84,000 scientists, working in labs and clinics across the nation, and telling them it is time to contact their Representative, and request that they also support efforts to include an additional \$7 billion for important health and education programs,” he said. If the House budget bill advances without these additional funds, Retzlaff added, FASEB scientists will be urging opposition to the bill. “Members of Congress must understand that the absence of those funds means less money for cancer research, less hope for those with Parkinson’s or Alzheimer’s, and more suffering for Americans afflicted with illness and injury. FASEB plans to make that message clear.”

*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.*