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## **FASEB, SCIENTISTS CALL ON CONGRESS TO SUPPORT SPECTER-HARKIN-CASTLE EFFORT TO INCREASE HEALTH & EDUCATION FUNDING**

*Bethesda, MD* – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is rallying scientists in support of efforts launched by Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Representative Mike Castle (R-DE) to increase funding for health and education programs. “We’ve sent letters to the [House](#) and [Senate](#), urging lawmakers to sign ‘Dear Colleague’ letters being circulated, and have alerted our societies’ scientists in targeted Congressional districts to do the same,” said Jon Retzlaff, FASEB Director of Legislative Relations. “Senators Specter and Harkin and Representative Castle are reminding their colleagues and leadership of their commitment to provide additional funding for health and education programs, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH).”

“The consistent leadership of Senator Specter, Senator Harkin and Representative Castle in championing medical research is extraordinary,” according to FASEB President, Leo Furcht, M.D. “We want to do everything we can to bolster their campaign to ensure higher appropriations for health and education programs.” He added that FASEB has also sent [letters of appreciation](#) to those Senators who have already signed onto the Specter-Harkin letter, which requests that no less than the fiscal year 2005 funded level be provided for labor, health and education programs.

In writing to Moderate Republican members of the House, Furcht stated, “You have the power and ability to see that NIH receives necessary resources to continue its mission of improving the lives of millions.” FASEB asked House members to sign on to the Castle letter, which reminds House leadership that they “agreed to provide no less than \$7 billion above the Administration’s request for the FY2007 Labor, HHS and Education appropriations bill.”

“Congress will leave soon to return to their home districts for the election,” said Retzlaff. “We would like for one of their final acts, before leaving Washington, to be an affirmation of their commitment to health and education programs. These are high priorities for the American people and we agree with Senators Specter, Harkin and Representative Castle that they should be high priorities for Congress, as well.”

*FASEB is composed of 21 societies with more than 80,000 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.*