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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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## **FASEB URGES FRIST, SENATE TO PASS STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT**

*Bethesda, MD* – Today marks the anniversary of the House passage of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810). One year ago, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) joined our colleagues in the scientific community and millions of Americans whose lives had been touched by disease or injury in celebrating the House's courageous and historic action. The optimism and hope of that day, and which surrounds the field of research of human embryonic stem cells (hESC), has risen again as we turn to the Senate and strongly urge them to move this bill (S. 471) forward.

A story in this morning's *Washington Post* describes Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's determination to find solutions to the devastating impact of illness. This is a passion shared by the biomedical researchers and clinicians of FASEB, and we would ask that Senator Frist join us in supporting hESC research, which represents such enormous scientific and therapeutic promise. As a physician, Senator Frist undoubtedly understands the importance of providing hope to those stricken with diabetes, Parkinson's, spinal cord injuries or other serious conditions. The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act emblemizes hope for millions of Americans.

FASEB, on behalf of its 22 scientific societies and more than 84,000 scientists and physicians, would respectfully remind the Senate Majority Leader of his commitment to this legislation, as he said on July 29, 2005, "I believe the president's policy should be modified. We should expand federal funding (and thus [National Institutes of Health] oversight) and current guidelines governing stem cell research, carefully and thoughtfully staying within ethical bounds... I will support the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act." The time has come to fulfill that promise. The Senate should act to pass S.471 without further delay. The American people, the health of our nation, and the dedicated researchers working to improve the quality of our lives deserve nothing less.

*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.*