



June 27, 2006

---

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Office of Public Affairs • 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20814-3998 • <http://opa.faseb.org/>

---

Contact: Carrie D. Wolinetz, PhD  
(301) 634-7650  
[cwolinetz@faseb.org](mailto:cwolinetz@faseb.org)

## **NATIONWIDE, FASEB SCIENTISTS PUT PRESSURE ON SENATE LEADERSHIP TO BRING STEM CELL BILL TO A VOTE**

*Bethesda, MD* – Rallying tens of thousands of scientists, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is continuing its campaign to bring S. 471, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, to a vote by the full Senate. “Biomedical researchers across the nation are contacting their Republican Senators,” said Carrie Wolinetz, Ph.D., FASEB Director of Communications. “Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist has strongly supported embryonic stem cell research, and has vowed to expand federal funding. FASEB and the scientists we represent are urging his Senate colleagues to hold Senator Frist to his promise.”

The time is right for this legislation to move forward, agreed FASEB President, Bruce Bistran, M.D., Ph.D. “The world was recently reminded of the potential of embryonic stem cell research with the recent announcement that researchers at Johns Hopkins University had used embryonic stem cells to restore movement to paralyzed rats,” he said. “This study could have major implications for patients suffering from spinal cord injuries or neurodegenerative diseases, such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).”

FASEB has [sent letters](#) to the Republican leadership of the Senate, including Senate Majority Leader Frist (R-TN), Senators Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX), and Rick Santorum (R-PA), adjuring them to bring the bill, which passed the House of Representative more than one year ago, to a vote by the full Senate. “There is no higher priority than the health and well-being of the American people,” wrote Bistran. “You have the power to aid scientists and physicians in their quest to understand and treat our most devastating medical conditions. It is time to give them the tools they need, to unbind their hands, and to speed their progress.”

To view the FASEB alert, please visit our [website](#).

*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.*