February 12, 2015

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeLauro:

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) thanks you for your effort to address the funding constraints imposed on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011. We are pleased to offer FASEB’s endorsement of HR 531, the “Accelerating Biomedical Research Act,” which you introduced last month. By establishing a budget cap adjustment over the remaining fiscal years that the BCA is in effect, this important legislation will allow the Appropriations Committee to restore the purchasing power NIH has lost since 2003. FASEB is also grateful that the bill will create a more predictable, multi-year program of sustainable growth for NIH.

The “Accelerating Biomedical Research Act” comes at a critical time, and we share your concern about the declining percentage of U.S. spending on research and development. A new FASEB analysis of NIH data found that in 12 of the past 13 years, funding has either been cut or has failed to outpace rising costs. As a result, in constant dollars, the NIH budget remains more than 22 percent below the FY 2003 level.¹

FASEB urges that all federal research agencies be given relief from the budget caps. Scientific research is interdependent and collaborative. Biomedical researchers rely on the discoveries of other disciplines to advance their work. The current spending levels are too low to meet high priority needs of the country, including biomedical research. Thank you for your steadfast advocacy to ensure that NIH is able to fund the research that will advance health and improve the lives of the American people.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Haywood, PhD
FASEB President