



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

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September 12, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology is profoundly grateful for the \$2 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that was included in the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill. The bill also rejected harmful proposals to restructure the NIH budget and reduce support for administrative costs. This is a remarkable achievement that serves as a powerful demonstration of your ongoing commitment to ensuring that the United States remains a world leader in biomedical research.

Under your steadfast leadership over the last three years, the Senate Appropriations Committee has provided the largest increases in funding for medical research in recent memory. Today, our nation and the entire world face new and frightening threats from diseases that know no borders. However, this is also a time of great discovery, as our scientific and technological capacities continue to bring us new insights, therapies, and cures for the most debilitating diseases. Thanks to your bipartisan partnership, NIH has the resources necessary to unleash the creative potential of thousands of scientists across the country that otherwise would have been sidelined due to insufficient budgets. Their work has led to immunotherapy for cancers and genetic screening and diagnostics for early detection, offering significant potential for improved quality of life.

With the first \$2 billion increase approved by Congress in FY 2016, NIH was able to award more than 800 additional research project grants. The FY 2017 omnibus budget agreement which included another \$2 billion for NIH restored the agency's funding capacity to its pre-sequestration level. A budget of \$36.1 billion for research in FY 2018 will accelerate the important work already underway and provide career opportunities for promising young investigators.

Your efforts to provide predictable and sustained funding growth for our country's biomedical research enterprise and unwavering support of the scientific community are sincerely appreciated by FASEB and our member societies. FASEB looks forward to working with the subcommittee to ensure that President Trump signs the proposed \$2 billion increase for NIH into law.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Baldwin, PhD
FASEB President

The American Physiological Society • American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology • American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Investigative Pathology • American Society for Nutrition • The American Association of Immunologists • American Association of Anatomists
The Protein Society • Society for Developmental Biology • American Peptide Society • Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities
The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research • American Society for Clinical Investigation • Society for the Study of Reproduction • The Teratology Society
The Endocrine Society • The American Society of Human Genetics • International Society for Computational Biology • American College of Sports Medicine
Biomedical Engineering Society • Genetics Society of America • American Federation for Medical Research • The Histochemical Society • Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Glycobiology • Association for Molecular Pathology • Society for Redox Biology and Medicine • Society For Experimental Biology and Medicine
American Aging Association (AGE) • U.S. Human Proteome Organization (US HUPO) • Society of Toxicology (SOT)