



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

301.634.7000
www.faseb.org

9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814

September 5, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Room H-305
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Room H-305
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen, Vice Chairman, and Ranking Member,

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, representing 31 societies and their 130,000 members, strongly opposes legislation that would prohibit the use of federal funding for research involving fetal tissue or embryonic stem cells. Current regulations provide oversight and ethical guidance for this research, and statutory limits on funding for such research would severely impede progress towards understanding the underlying biology and the development of possible treatments for a wide range of serious and incurable diseases.

Fetal tissue remains a critical resource to further researchers' understanding of how human tissues develop and are affected by disease. Critical scientific advances – such as the development of vaccines against polio, rubella, measles, chickenpox, adenovirus, and rabies, and treatments for debilitating diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, cystic fibrosis, and hemophilia – depend on research using fetal tissue. Because of their potential to produce any cell type in the body in unlimited quantities, embryonic stem cells are also a critical resource for research. For decades, embryonic stem cells have been used to test new drugs and have led to innovative new approaches for treating deadly and debilitating diseases, including spinal cord injury, heart failure, and diabetes.

Research using fetal tissue and embryonic stem cells advances scientific knowledge, improves human health, and saves lives. Research activities incorporating these resources have been and continue to be subject to rigorous federal legal and ethical oversight. Therefore, we urge you to oppose legislation that restricts research activities utilizing fetal tissue and embryonic stem cells.

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)