



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

November 8, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy:

As the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States, representing 31 societies and over 130,000 scientists and engineers, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is writing to urge you to reject H.Amdt.226, which was attached to H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018. H.Amdt.226, offered by Representative Dave Brat (R-VA-7), would disallow the use of funds appropriated to the Veteran's Affairs Medical and Prosthetics Research Program "to purchase, breed, transport, house, feed, maintain, dispose of, or experiment on dogs as part of the conduct of any study assigned to pain category D or E, as defined by the Department of Agriculture." This action would eliminate important research that will benefit the veteran community.

VA research using dogs has led to many advances, including the development of the cardiac pacemaker and more recently an artificial pancreas, which monitors glucose levels and automatically delivers the appropriate amount of insulin, enhancing the lives of diabetics. Even though the number of dogs essential to biomedical research is extremely small (0.05 percent of VA research projects utilizing animals), they remain an important research model for addressing both human and animal diseases. This is particularly true for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, epilepsy, narcolepsy, vision, and cancer research.

Passage of H.Amdt.226 will delay medical advances and will create obstacles in the quest to improve health for veterans and all Americans. We join in with our colleagues at the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, American Brain Coalition, The American Legion, American Physiological Society, American Veterinary Medical Association, Association of the U.S. Navy, Friends of VA, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America, National Association for Biomedical Research, National Defense Committee, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Square Deal for Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, and VA Secretary David Shulkin, MD, and implore you to reject H.Amdt.226.

Respectfully,

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)

cc: The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510