FASEB Statement on Second FY 2018 Continuing Resolution (H J Res 124)

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is alarmed that the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act of 2018 (H J Res 124) fully funds the Department of Defense (DoD) for fiscal year 2018 while leaving all other federal agencies operating under a continuing resolution until January 19, 2018. Instead of singling out funding for one department, Congress should concentrate on finalizing FY 2018 spending decisions for the entire government.

FASEB recognizes that completing the FY 2018 appropriations process cannot be accomplished until an agreement is achieved to raise the existing Budget Control Act caps. “We appreciate the ongoing efforts by congressional leaders to negotiate revised spending limits for non-defense and defense programs and urge all parties involved to reach a deal as soon as possible,” said FASEB President Thomas O. Baldwin, PhD.

The current cap on non-defense discretionary funding is too low to accommodate adequate growth for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and other federal research agencies, impeding our ability to support the research grants that drive scientific discovery. Inadequate and uncertain funding disrupts planning for large-scale, long-term research initiatives and limits career opportunities for younger researchers.

Stable growth is essential for a healthy scientific enterprise and to keep pace with growing international competition. Science requires sustained support in order to produce new knowledge, innovations, and cures, and train the next generation of scientists. “We are counting on Congress to take all steps necessary to ensure that the U.S. will remain the world leader in medical and scientific research,” added Baldwin.