



July 27, 2009

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Office of Public Affairs • 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20814-3998 • <http://opa.faseb.org/>

Contact: Carrie D. Wolinetz, PhD
(301) 634-7650
cwolinetz@faseb.org

FASEB PRAISES HOUSE FOR PASSAGE OF NIH FUNDING BILL, OPPOSES AMENDMENT'S ATTACK ON PEER REVIEW

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) today praised the House for passage of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, which included a 3.1 percent increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). “We are very pleased that the House has surpassed the President’s budget in support of biomedical research,” said Mark O. Lively, Ph.D., FASEB President. “The science funded by NIH provides hope to millions of patients and their families struggling each day with the burden of disease or injury. Clearly, NIH remains a high priority for both Congress and the American people.”

The FASEB President expressed disappointment, however, with passage by voice vote of an amendment offered by Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA), which would remove funding for peer reviewed grants focused on HIV/AIDS prevention. “NIH’s peer review system is the envy of the world because it ensures only the highest quality science is supported through federal funding,” stated Lively. “Any short-term compromise of the peer-review process, through Congressional micro-management of the grant-making process, is a grave threat to biomedical research, the quality of U.S. science, and the health of our fellow citizens.”

According to Lively, FASEB will continue to oppose the objectionable amendment as the bill moves to conference with the Senate. “If necessary, we will mobilize our grassroots in opposition to the amendment. Nonetheless, we have confidence that the Senate and House conferees will work to protect the scientific integrity of NIH merit review from politically or ideologically motivated attack,” he said.

FASEB is composed of 22 societies with more than 90,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB enhances the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. Our mission is to advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences through service to our member societies and collaborative advocacy.