



Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

— *Quality Life Through Research* —

Member Societies

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
Teratology Society
The Endocrine Society
The American Society of Human
Genetics
Society for Gynecologic Investigation
Environmental Mutagen Society
International Society for
Computational Biology
American College of Sports Medicine
Biomedical Engineering Society

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June 17, 2009

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
Chair
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-9735

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-1946

Dear Chairwoman Landrieu and Ranking Member Snowe:

On behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), representing 22 scientific societies with more than 90,000 members, I am writing to express our opposition to a provision in S.1233, "A Bill to Reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs" that would increase, over several years, the set-aside to fund the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program from 2.5% to 3.5% of any federal agency budget that provides more than \$100 million for research, with an exclusion provided for the Department of Health and Human Services.

FASEB supports the SBIR program and recognizes the benefits of the participation of small businesses in scientific research. We note that there is currently no cap on the SBIR program, which already provides research agencies with the discretion to fund meritorious SBIR applications at a level above 2.5% of the agency's budget. However, a mandatory increase in the set-aside across agencies will necessarily result in funding cuts for the peer-reviewed basic and applied research that fuels innovation, improves quality of life and contributes to our country's economic growth. Rather than increasing support for one area of research at the expense of all others, we urge you and your colleagues in Congress to increase funding for all research agencies, thereby increasing the total investment in SBIR and other projects.

We understand that the Senate Small Business Committee will soon markup S.1233 and continue with the SBIR reauthorization. We hope to work with you to address the issue of the SBIR set-aside as the legislative process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Marchase
FASEB President