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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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**STATEMENT OF FASEB PRESIDENT, LEO T. FURCHT, M.D. ON PRESIDENTIAL VETO
OF H.R. 810**

Bethesda, MD – This entire debate has centered around hope: the hope felt by millions of patients faced with devastating maladies, the hope offered by embryonic stem cells to scientists in terms of their potential to give us insight into the biology of disease, and now our hope that Congress will continue to put the health of the American people first by overriding the President's veto.

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is profoundly disappointed in President Bush's decision to veto H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. The President had the opportunity to sign into law a bill that had strong bipartisan support from both houses of Congress and the overwhelming majority of Americans. Instead, the hopes of many have been cruelly dashed.

On behalf of FASEB, I have sent letters to every member of the House of Representatives, urging them to continue to show leadership on this critical issue by voting to override the President's veto, and FASEB has encouraged scientists throughout the nation to do the same. I believe that as long as there are members of Congress that truly care about the health and well-being of the citizens of our nation, there is hope for embryonic stem cell research.

Throughout the country, there are people, real people, suffering from debilitating illnesses like Parkinson's, heart disease, diabetes and multiple sclerosis. There are also researchers struggling to move science and medicine forward while coping with intolerable funding restrictions on embryonic stem cells. Neither of these groups should have to wait any longer. The House and the Senate should continue to move H.R. 810 forward without delay.

FASEB is composed of 21 societies with more than 80,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB's mission is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists in those areas related to public policy, facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies and disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.