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Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

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FASEB THANKS SENATE FOR PASSING STEM CELL BILL, URGES PRESIDENT TO WITHHOLD VETO

Bethesda, MD – The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is delighted that the United States Senate has passed H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. On behalf of our 21 scientific societies and their more than 80,000 researchers and clinicians, FASEB would like to thank those Senators who cast a vote today for hope, health and science. In particular, FASEB wishes to applaud the leadership of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Senators Arlen Specter, Tom Harkin, Orrin Hatch, Edward Kennedy and Dianne Feinstein for their stalwart championing of this issue.

“The American people have spoken,” said Leo Furcht, M.D., FASEB President. “Both houses of Congress have passed this bill with strong bipartisan support. The past two days have been filled with eloquent stories from Senators who have been touched by patients in their home states and recounting of the scientific promise of embryonic stem cells. Clearly this is an issue that transcends politics, and touches each member of Congress in a very personal way.”

FASEB again urges President George W. Bush not to veto H.R. 810. “We hope that the President will be sensitive to the many voices that have spoken out on this issue,” concludes Furcht. “This bill is overwhelmingly supported by the majority of the country, and it should be signed into law without further 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.