



July 17, 2006

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

‘DON’T DENY HOPE’, FASEB URGES SENATE TO PASS EMBRYONIC STEM CELL BILL, IMPLORES PRESIDENT TO WITHHOLD VETO

Bethesda, MD – “Our nation’s leaders have an opportunity to facilitate a great leap forward in science and medicine,” according to Leo Furcht, M.D., President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). “Today the Senate considers H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. By passing this bill and expanding federal funding of embryonic stem cell lines, policymakers will be giving researchers the tools they need to understand and ultimately treat diseases like Parkinson’s, diabetes, and heart disease.”

FASEB has [sent letters](#) to every member of the Senate, strongly supporting passage of H.R. 810, as well as alerting scientists throughout the country to contact their Senators. “There is a general consensus in the scientific community that in order for the full therapeutic potential of human embryonic stem cells to be realized, more lines must be readily available to researchers,” writes Furcht. “To millions of Americans suffering from currently untreatable injuries or conditions, whether spinal cord injuries or neurodegenerative disorders, embryonic stem cell research offers hope.”

“In addition to the thousands of letters generated by FASEB society members,” said Furcht, “I have also [written](#), on behalf of the Federation, to President Bush, urging him not to veto the bill, should it pass the Senate. It is our hope that the President will show the strength in leadership on this issue we have seen from Republican Senators such as Majority Leader Bill Frist, Arlen Specter and Orrin Hatch.”

“Embryonic stem cells are a tool, a technology that accords medical researchers unprecedented opportunities for understanding diseases and how to treat them. Limiting embryonic stem cell research to cell s available at a single point in time is equivalent to not allowing NASA to fund space exploration beyond the Apollo mission,” states the letter to President Bush. “As the leader of our country, it is your place to provide, rather than deny, hope to those that need it most.”

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.