June 7, 2007

The Honorable
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

I write in strong support of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, on behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a consortium of 21 scientific societies representing more than 80,000 biomedical researchers. This legislation would expand the number of embryonic stem cell lines available for federal funding and provide researchers with an even greater set of tools to combat health challenges facing our country. As Dr. Elias Zerhouni, director of our nation’s premiere medical research agency, the National Institutes of Health, recently said, “It is in the best interest of our scientists, our science, our country that we find ways, that the nation finds a way, to allow the science to go full speed on both adult and embryonic stem cell research.”

Embryonic stem cells not only hold enormous scientific promise, they also emblematize hope for millions of Americans suffering from conditions such as Parkinson’s diseases, blindness, spinal cord injury, and diabetes. The current policy severely restricts the ability of scientists to make the breakthrough discoveries that ultimately improve the health of the American people. Congress has the opportunity today to pass a bill that can positively impact the lives of over a hundred million patients. Passing the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act will unbind the hands of scientists, enhance medical progress, and put in place ethical guidelines to govern stem cell research.

There is no higher priority than the health and well-being of our nation. We humbly suggest it is time for Congress to honor the will of the American people. Those afflicted with debilitating diseases have been delayed relief and hope for far too long. Please ask the President to reconsider his opposition to this vital area of research by passing the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act with overwhelming support.

Sincerely,

Leo T. Furcht, M.D.
FASEB President