Dear Representative:

I am writing, on behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), to respectfully ask that you request a funding level of $31.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) when making your programmatic request for FY2009 appropriations. FASEB comprises 21 scientific societies representing more than 80,000 researchers. The entire biomedical research community – scientists, patients, physicians, and industry groups – are united in this request, which aims to forestall NIH’s loss in purchasing power and provide new opportunities for groundbreaking medical progress.

As our nation’s premier sponsor of cutting-edge medical research, NIH has been involved in nearly every medical advancement of the past 50 years, leading to unprecedented improvements in the health and quality of life of all people. To those patients still suffering from untreatable conditions, NIH embodies the hope of therapies and cures yet to come. NIH-funded researchers are at work at universities and institutions in every state making the fundamental, innovative breakthroughs that will allow us to meet our most pressing health challenges, from Alzheimer’s disease to influenza to obesity.

For information on how to officially record your support for the life-saving medical research that offers hope to millions of Americans, please visit: [http://opa.faseb.org/Process.htm](http://opa.faseb.org/Process.htm) While you may have additional priorities, an appropriations request in one category does not come at the expense of a request in another (i.e. a programmatic request for NIH does not cancel out a project or a report language request). Please renew our commitment to medical research and fulfill the hope of the American people by making NIH a national priority.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Palazzo, Ph.D.
FASEB President