January 10, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chair Leahy, Chair DeLauro and Ranking Members Shelby and Granger:

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) represents over 130,000 biomedical researchers worldwide. Our nonprofit is comprised of 30 member societies actively supporting the effort to urge Congress to finalize FY 2022 funding for the U.S. Government. The current “continuing resolution” (CR) leaves all federal agencies operating under FY 2021 levels nearly four months into the new fiscal year. Additionally, we remain concerned that there is still the prospect of a long-term CR beyond February if Congress does not come to final agreement soon. Recent reports of progress in the ongoing conversations between Appropriations Committee leadership are a welcome development, and we urge you to continue your efforts to reach an agreement on the overdue spending bills.

The current situation is creating uncertainty, inefficiencies, and disruption for federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), which are key funding agencies for the majority of our researchers. These researchers are doing the hard work of developing new therapies, diagnostics, and general knowledge for the US research and scientific enterprise at a pivotal time in our history as other countries invest heavily in theirs. CRs also prevent agencies such as the Department of Energy Office of Science, US Department of Agriculture’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, Veterans Administration’s Medical and Prosthetic Research Program, and others from funding new grants and expanding training programs for a cohort of diverse early career researchers. Also in jeopardy is the $3.5 billion increase for NIH and the $1.1 billion increase for NSF recommended by the Appropriations Committees in the summer of 2021.

As our biomedical enterprise continues to learn more about the Omicron variant, NIH needs robust FY 22 funding to fully support the breadth of promising research proposals that could lead to cures and treatments to eliminate the heavy disease burden caused by long standing illnesses such as cancer, Alzheimer’s, cardiovascular disorders among others. Currently, 80
percent of NIH’s budget funds medical research by scientists, institutions, and small businesses in every state and Washington, DC. This investment multiplies its return to local economies. NIH-funded research has yielded new and better diagnostics, prevention strategies, and more effective treatments for COVID and other illnesses, which are only increasing as our population ages.

Robust, predictable funding for our federal scientific and innovation ecosystem is critical to accelerating progress towards cures, fueling local economies, and improving our global competitiveness. Our country cannot afford another CR beyond February. Please redouble your efforts to finalize the FY 2022 budget.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Morris, MS, PhD
FASEB President