

December 3, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

As the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress works to conclude legislative business, FASEB urges you to finalize fiscal year (FY) 2021 funding for federal agencies and pass an omnibus appropriations bill that includes at least \$43.68 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee. We also respectfully request that the omnibus package provide at least \$8.548 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), \$840 million for the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research Program, \$435 million for the Agriculture Food and Research Initiative (AFRI) at the Department of Agriculture, and \$7.05 billion for the Department of Energy Office of Science (DOE SC).

FASEB greatly appreciates Congress' prior support for the fundamental scientific research and educational programs supported by NIH, NSF, and other agencies that fund basic biomedical research conducted by the over 130,000 researchers from FASEB's 29 member societies. NSF in particular advances research to create knowledge that transforms the future by bringing together various scientific and behavioral disciplines and stakeholders (industry, academia, nonprofits, and government) to solve national problems that no one discipline can tackle alone. VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research Program has developed innovative treatments and diagnostics to care for our veterans. With additional funding, AFRI will be able to continue agricultural research through competitive grants, including projects that provide urgent solutions to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's food and agricultural system. Similarly, DOE SC has played an instrumental role working across agencies to respond to the pandemic. For example, this year it has actively contributed to building biology datasets to create extremely accurate models of the structure of coronavirus proteins and to inform future countermeasures.

The pandemic's repercussions will continue to be felt into 2021 and beyond and will carry long-term negative health impacts on survivors, so FASEB also supports passage of emergency supplemental funding for NIH and NSF to advance COVID-related research and provide resources to address disruptions when labs were closed this spring. We recommend at least \$15.5 billion for NIH as proposed in the Health Education and Liability Protection and Schools (HEALS) Act and additional funding for NSF.



# FASEB

Federation of American Societies  
for Experimental Biology

*Representing Over 130,000 Researchers*

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Bethesda, MD 20814

Researchers are struggling to restart work that was interrupted by COVID restrictions, and many are facing great uncertainty regarding future funding for their grants. Losing researchers when the United States must compete globally to remain a leader in innovation would be shortsighted. It takes years to attract, educate, and train such individuals.

Thank you for your attention to our requests. We look forward to working with you to approve a FY 2021 omnibus appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Louis B. Justement, PhD  
FASEB President

cc: The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

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