



## FASEB STATEMENT REGARDING FY 2024 HOUSE RESEARCH FUNDING BILLS

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is comprised of 26 scientific societies, representing more than 110,000 researchers around the world with a common vision for the advancement of research and education in biological and biomedical sciences. We are deeply concerned about the proposed funding levels for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF) in the fiscal year (FY) 2024 House Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) and Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) bills. Slashing the NIH budget by nearly \$3 billion would impact every congressional district across the nation. It would also have a significant impact on patients, families, and communities who rely on life-saving medical research underway at NIH and be a devastating blow to the future of healthcare and the well-being of Americans. Reducing funding for NSF by \$300 million compared to the enacted FY 2023 level will make it extraordinarily difficult for the agency to implement the goals of the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act approved by Congress last year. The proposed funding level for NSF also jeopardizes the agency's ability to invest in new areas of research especially given that the CHIPS and Science Act established a FY 2024 authorization level of \$15.7 billion to put NSF on the trajectory of roughly doubling its budget over a five-year period.

In March 2023, nearly 400 members of the medical research stakeholder community came together to implore lawmakers to uphold their bipartisan commitment to medical research. They requested a minimum of \$51 billion for the NIH's base program level, where ARPA-H funding would be supplemental. FASEB continues to believe this is an appropriate level. We cannot afford to take a single step backward when it comes to medical research funding. The House LHHS bill also takes the unusual step of dictating specific cuts to certain institutes and centers, breaking from the Appropriations Committee's long-standing practice of letting scientific opportunity dictate spending priorities.

The consequences of underfunding the NIH and NSF cannot be overstated. It will not only halt the progress we have made in developing new cures, treatments, diagnostics, and preventive interventions, but also harm economic growth in communities nationwide where federally supported research is conducted. It will impact the future of a broad range of scientists and investigators from early career to postdoctoral researchers and fellows who are trained and supported by NIH and NSF grants to gain research experience and are vital to continuing to supply the pipeline with innovative thinking and replace the aging scientific workforce. With increased appropriations provided by Congress over the last several fiscal years, NIH has made critical progress in increasing the number of early career researchers it is able to fund annually. Both NIH and NSF will need additional resources to expand training for scientists from diverse backgrounds to broaden participation in science and engineering among underrepresented and diverse groups. Shortchanging our premier medical research agencies means losing our competitive edge against other countries such as China, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore which could usurp the U.S. biomedical enterprise and who recognize the tremendous value biomedical research yields. The repercussions will reverberate through generations by continuing down this path, leaving an uncertain future for the prosperity and national security of our nation.

Every day, individuals are receiving devastating diagnoses, and families are grappling with the economic and social consequences of both chronic and terminal illnesses. FASEB passionately appeals to appropriators to set aside political differences and work together resolutely and in a bipartisan manner to provide critically needed funding increases for NIH and NSF in the final FY 2024 appropriations bills.