FASEB
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 110,000 Researchers

6120 Executive Blvd., Suite 230, Rockville, MD 20852 | faseb.org

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2025

Dear Chairs Collins and Cole, Vice Chair Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), representing 110,000 researchers from 22 member societies, I am writing to urge you to work together in a bicameral, bipartisan manner to complete work on the fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations bills by the September 30 deadline. Timely consideration of FY 2026 funding legislation is especially critical following the passage of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, also referred to as the FY 2025 year-long "continuing resolution" (CR), H.R. 1968 (P.L. 119-4) last month. Although better than the alternative of a potentially lengthy and extremely damaging government shutdown, the FY 2025 CR flat funded critical biomedical, biological, and physical sciences research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Energy Office of Science (DOE SC), and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have had a long-standing record of bipartisan accomplishment in making funding for research a national priority. Since FY 2015, the NIH budget has grown by more than $17 billion, enabling NIH to fund a greater number of grants each year and restore purchasing power that was lost during the decade in which Congress flat-funded the agency after the doubling ended in 2003. In 2022, the House and Senate passed, and the President signed into law the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (P.L.117-167) which authorized significant and much-needed new investments in NSF and DOE SC, among other agencies. The Appropriations Committees followed through on the funding trajectory envisioned by the CHIPS in Science Act by providing a historic $1 billion increase for NSF in the final FY 2023 omnibus spending bill.

FASEB is extremely grateful for the bipartisan, bicameral cooperation that was necessary to enact generous funding increases for critical science agencies over the last few years. We understand that reaching agreements on funding priorities across 12 appropriations bills is a complex process, particularly in a constrained fiscal environment and under discretionary spending caps, as was the case in FY 2025. Nonetheless, FASEB is concerned that the process will repeat itself in FY 2026, unless the Appropriations Committee leadership begins immediate negotiations to reach consensus on top-line discretionary spending limits that will allow for above-inflation increases for NIH, NSF, DOE SC, and other science agencies and research programs.

Last month, 51 scientists from 29 states representing the FASEB Board of Directors, Science Policy Committee, and early career fellows met with nearly 100 House and Senate offices to share the FASEB's

FY 2026 funding recommendations for NIH, NSF, DOE SC, USDA, and the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program. FASEB strongly believes the federal government should commit to robust, predictable, and sustained funding increases for science agencies and respectfully recommends the following amounts for these five agencies:

- **NIH** – at least $51.3 billion to ensure NIH will have the resources needed to accelerate progress across all areas of medical science, including regenerative medicine, cancer immunotherapy, and neurological health and be able to continue its commitment to supporting and growing the next generation of our biomedical research enterprise. This funding level also matches the bipartisan Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's recommendation for FY 2026.
- **NSF** – at least $16.7 billion which will allow NSF to further attract highly qualified early-career researchers, fund more high-quality research proposals, and increase NSF's average award size. This is the authorized level for NSF for FY 2025 in the CHIPS and Science Act, which Congress has not yet achieved.[1]
- **DOE SC** – at least $9.5 billion to continue critical facilities upgrades and support pathbreaking research in emerging areas such as quantum science and artificial intelligence, while also expanding and maintaining a skilled and regionally inclusive workforce of researchers, scientists, and professionals. This funding level also matches the Energy Science Coalition's recommendation for FY 2026.
- **USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)** – at least $500 million to allow the agency to fulfill its mission as the leading competitive grants program for agricultural sciences and fund additional research proposals. This request also matches the AFRI coalition's recommendation for FY 2026.
- **VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program** – at least $1.2 billion to support meaningful growth above inflation, allowing for rapid translation of findings to improve patient care and the development of innovative treatments for veterans and facilitate new investments in VA's IT infrastructure to address the collection and use of big data. This is the same level supported by the Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research coalition.

As the FY 2026 appropriations process begins, FASEB looks forward to continuing to work with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to reach agreement on bipartisan spending bills that provide robust funding for the nation's science agencies.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Garvy
FASEB President

[1] https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/14_fy2025.pdf?VersionId=9LG75WqXK7ifA.nFWkhlkDTN6df.hHB5.pdf