FASEB
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

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November 5, 2019

The Honorable Richard Durbin
U.S. Senate
711 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
U.S. House of Representatives
118 Longworth House Office
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Bill Foster
U.S. House of Representatives
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Durbin, Representative Underwood, and Representative Foster:

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), representing 130,000 biological and biomedical scientists across the country, is pleased to endorse the American Cures Act (H.R. 2401/S. 1250) and the American Innovation Act (H.R. 4757/S. 1249). These two proposed legislative initiatives represent a crucial effort to bolster our nation's scientific capacity. By creating a framework to steadily and robustly increase the budgets for agencies including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), these bills will help accelerate the pace of discovery, and in turn improve our nation's health, economy, and welfare.

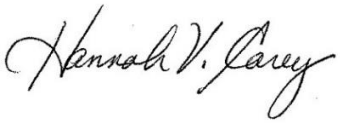
NIH is the nation's largest funder of biomedical research, providing competitive grants to more than 300,000 scientists working at universities, medical schools, independent research institutions, and companies across the country. NIH funding is fueling new research breakthroughs that are transforming medicine, including breakthroughs in cancer immunotherapy, progress towards a universal flu vaccine, possible cures for sickle-cell disease, and new ways to combat the opioid crisis.[1,2,3,4]

Moreover, innovations derived from basic biomedical research lead to new companies and industries. The human genome project alone is estimated to have spurred nearly $1 trillion of economic activity.[5] The American Cures Act would build on the investment in biomedical research that Congress has made over the last few years and allow NIH to accelerate progress in all areas of biomedicine.

NSF, with its broad mandate to support fundamental research across all fields of science, engineering, and mathematics, is the cornerstone of our nation's scientific enterprise. Web browsers, modern weather forecasting, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are just a few of the tangible benefits enabled by NSF-funded research.[6,7] Even as the demand for scientific research has dramatically grown, the NSF budget has remained flat in real terms for 15 years.[8] The American Innovation Act would authorize critical investments in NSF to support pathbreaking research, fuel innovation and economic growth, and support the next generation of scientists and engineers.

We thank all of you for your ongoing efforts to ensure that our nation's research agencies receive the level of sustained investment necessary to keep the United States at the forefront of science and improve the lives of the American people.

Sincerely,



Hannah V. Carey, PhD
FASEB President

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[1] *NIH grantee wins 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine*, October, 2018
[2] *Universal Influenza Vaccine Research* National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, Bethesda, MD
[3] *NIH launches initiative to accelerate genetic therapies to cure sickle cell disease* , September, 2018
[4] NIH HEAL Initiative
[5] Battelle/United for Medical Research. The impact of genomics on the U.S. economy , June 2013
[6] Transforming the World Through Science. National Science Foundation, Alexandria, VA
[7] *NSF Sensational 60*. National Science Foundation, Alexandria, VA
[8] FASEB Federal Funding Recommendations, FY 2020