



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

P.O. Box 2288, Rockville, MD 20847 | faseb.org

April 7, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Members Shelby and Granger,

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) represents 29 societies and over 100,000 researchers working in the biological and biomedical field. As scientists, we urge you to act quickly to finalize an agreement that provides an additional \$10 billion to maintain our preparedness during the ongoing worldwide coronavirus pandemic. This emergency funding for the federal COVID response was removed from the final Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022.

The prior allocation of federal funds for COVID-19 response led to the development of vaccines and new treatments, improved our understanding of how the virus is transmitted, and provided care to critically ill Americans. FASEB commends Congress for working in a bipartisan manner over the last two years to address the coronavirus pandemic and implores you to continue providing the resources necessary to maintain the progress we have achieved thus far.

We do not want to be in a situation where funding arrives too late to make a meaningful difference in saving lives and preventing severe disease should another wave of COVID-19 occur within our borders. Asia and Europe area already experiencing surges. U.S. public health officials are now bracing for an uptick in COVID-19 cases with the BA.2 variant—an omicron subvariant. It has grown in dominance to 59 percent of all new COVID-19 infections in the US for the week ending March 26, up from an estimated 39 percent of all new infections the prior week according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Full members: The American Physiological Society • American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology • American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics • American Society for Investigative Pathology • American Society for Nutrition • The American Association of Immunologists • American Association for Anatomy • Society for Developmental Biology • American Peptide Society • Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities • The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research • American Society for Clinical Investigation • Society for the Study of Reproduction • The Society for Birth Defects Research & Prevention • The Endocrine Society • American College of Sports Medicine • Genetics Society of America • The Histochemical Society • Society for Glycobiology • Association for Molecular Pathology • Society for Redox Biology and Medicine • Society For Experimental Biology and Medicine • American Aging Association • U. S. Human Proteome Organization • Society of Toxicology • Society for Leukocyte Biology • American Federation for Medical Research • Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society • Shock Society • **Associate members:** The American Society of Human Genetics

With only 65 percent of the U.S. population fully vaccinated and ongoing studies being conducted to determine if a fourth dose is needed for the general population to maintain sufficiently high antibody levels, our public health infrastructure is at risk of not having the tools available to address COVID such as an adequate supply of monoclonal antibody treatments. Lack of additional federal funds for COVID-19 response would make it more difficult for people to access testing, vaccinations and life-saving treatments. Meanwhile, as of March 29, the Food and Drug Administration has recommended a second booster dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for older people and certain immunocompromised individuals.

Our current supply of therapeutics is projected to start to run out by late May according to the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra. Funding to reimburse physicians and other providers who provide medical care and COVID-related treatment – especially to uninsured Americans – is also nearly depleted and will have to cease accepting new claims for vaccination services in early April.

Scientific discovery and the reliance on scientific data provided the foundation for tremendous technological and societal advances in the US before and during the current pandemic. It is critical that Congress provide another infusion of funds for NIH and NSF to continue the development of vaccines and therapies and accelerate the progress we have already achieved in addressing COVID.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia L. Morris". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Patricia L. Morris, MS, PhD
FASEB President