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## **APPROPRIATIONS INFORMATION**

### **FY 2006 Outlook**

The President will submit his 2006 budget on February 7, 2005. The Bush administration will seek to squeeze the growth out of domestic discretionary spending. House and Senate Appropriations committees expect him to propose growth in domestic appropriations (non-defense and non-homeland security) of less than the one percent permitted in 2005. We are expecting that the President will propose an increase of between one and two percent for the NIH and to virtually freeze funding at the NSF.

The Chairmen of the Senate (Judd Gregg R-NH) and House (Jim Nussle R-IA) Budget Committees have said that they strongly support the President's effort to reign in domestic discretionary spending and have indicated an openness to establish even more discipline than the President will propose.

### **House**

The House Republican Steering Committee could meet as early as Monday to approve Appropriations subcommittee chairmen for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, with key decisions to be made on potential jurisdiction changes. Many are speculating that the House may decide to merge the Military Construction and Defense panels or combine the Legislative Branch and the District of Columbia panels, but most likely will reject the suggestion to merge all scientific agencies into one subcommittee.

It is highly expected that Ralph Regula (R-OH) will retain his Chairmanship of the L/HHS Appropriations subcommittee. It remains to be seen what will happen to VA-HUD Appropriations subcommittee Chairman James Walsh (R-NY) because he has served for the GOP-imposed term limit of six years. However, many believe that he may retain some of his current responsibilities, which includes overseeing funding for the NSF.

## Senate

It is beginning to appear more likely that Senator Specter will remain as Chairman of the L/HHS Appropriations subcommittee rather than becoming chair of a new Intelligence Appropriations subcommittee. Given Specter's strong support for NIH, this is good news for biomedical research. Senator Specter led the effort in the Senate to double NIH's budget. The establishment of an Intelligence Appropriations subcommittee is becoming less likely. If such a committee is established, not only would the current defense Appropriations Chairmen (Bill Young (R-FL) and Ted Stevens (R-AK)) have to relinquish some of their responsibilities, but it would be make it more difficult to keep confidential the amount of dollars the United States spends on intelligence activities. In addition, Senate Appropriations Full Committee Chairman Thad Cochran (R-MS) has indicated that he is in no rush to streamline or reorganized his chamber's panel. Therefore, it appears the Senate will not go along with the House plans to reorganize.

**FY2006 Federal Funding Recommendations Released.** A press breakfast to announce FASEB's FY2006 Funding Recommendations for Federal Science Agencies was held on January 19<sup>th</sup>. FASEB President Paul Kincade fielded questions from reporters representing *Science*, *Nature*, *Research USA*, and *Chemical and Engineering News*, concerning the nomination of Governor Leavitt to become HHS Secretary, the NIH enhanced access proposal, the NIH conflict of interest controversy, and the upcoming appropriations process. [Back to top](#)

## **INSIDE (the Beltway) SCOOP – Jon Retzlaff, Legislative Director**

*The major message that I have been hearing from Congressional Staff as well as from NIH officials is that FASEB will be relied on more than ever before to advocate on the importance and benefits of scientific research. Many of us have heard the concerns that the Bush Administration (which includes some of the political appointees at HHS) is constraining/prohibiting the NIH from sharing information and/or providing facts that may highlight/illustrate the negative consequences that would result from budget cuts or funding increases that are set below inflation. Therefore, the Office of Public Affairs is in the process of organizing a strategy to aggressively target Congressional Members and staff in order to provide them with the relevant information and convince them that funding for research should be a top priority. We will be soliciting your advice and assistance on the best ways to spread the word about the benefits of scientific research.* [Back to top](#)

## **ADDITIONAL FASEB ACTIVITIES**

**FASEB President meets with NICHD Director Dwayne Alexander.** On January 19<sup>th</sup>, Paul Kincade met with the Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Development to discuss potential threats and opportunities confronting NICHD, ways that FASEB can work with the Institute, issues to be on the lookout for during the NIH reauthorization

process, steps the Institute is taking to cope with below inflationary increases and the conflict of interest controversy. NICHD struggled to pay to the 14<sup>th</sup> percentile during its most recent council cycle and is noting that the number of competing grant applications is on pace to increase by thirty percent for its next council cycle. In order to pay to the 14<sup>th</sup> percentile, NICHD had to cut existing grant proposals and delay its funding plans for certain RFA's. Dr. Alexander is especially concerned that this environment may cause many investigators to leave the field and that it will be very difficult to bring them back.

**FASEB President meets with NIA Director Richard Hodes.** On January 19<sup>th</sup>, Paul Kincade also met with the Director of the National Institute on Aging to discuss issues similar to those addressed with Dr. Alexander. In order to reach a percentile of seventeen percent, NIA is having to downward negotiate with competing grantees. Dr. Hodes encouraged FASEB to increase its role in communicating and emphasizing the long-term rewards that biomedical research offers.

**Meeting with House Science Committee Staff:** On January 6<sup>th</sup>, FASEB Legislative Director, Jon Retzlaff, and OPA staff, Dr. Andrea Stith and Gary Kline, met with House Science Committee staff from both the majority and the minority to discuss FASEB's funding recommendations for NSF and DOE in FY2006. In addition to funding, topics of discussion included NIH's enhanced access to publications proposal and how it might affect other agencies, science education, facilities funding and recent proposals to consolidate the appropriations subcommittees, which would include placing all science agencies under one committee.

**FASEB meets with Republican Main Street Partnership**  
On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Representatives from FASEB and the American Society for Human Genetics met with Sarah Chamberlin Resnick, Executive Director of the Republican Main Street Partnership (RMSP). This meeting was set up to discuss ways in which FASEB and its member societies could work with the RMSP on issues such as stem cell research and funding for science. FASEB has offered its help with grassroots activities designed to advocate for stem cell research.

**Future FASEB Plans:** Paul Kincade will be back in town the week of February 14<sup>th</sup>. Numerous meetings with Congressional budget staff will be scheduled to discuss the President's proposals as well as the reasons why science funding should be a priority.

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## RECENT HEARINGS

**Confirmation Hearing held on Michael Leavitt's Nomination to be the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.** Michael Leavitt, current EPA Administrator and former Governor of Utah, testified in front of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on January 18 and the Finance Committee on January 19. During his opening

remarks, Mr. Leavitt mentioned that one of his major goals was to protect the branding of the NIH, CDC, and FDA. He said he called these agencies brands because a brand is something the American people believe in and he intends to protect the integrity of these institutions. Most of the questions from Committee Members focused on Medicare, Medicaid, and Welfare Reform. However, Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) asked Mr. Leavitt whether extramural or intramural research is more important to discovering scientific breakthroughs. Mr. Leavitt responded that there needs to be a balance between research done on NIH's campus and the research done at institutions across our country.

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Finance Committee also held a hearing on Mr. Leavitt's nomination. The finance committee must approve Mr. Leavitt's nomination before it can be sent to the full Senate for final confirmation. During questioning of Mr. Leavitt, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) brought up the issue of enhanced access. Mr Wyden asked: "The press in the last few days has been reporting that NIH is going to reduce substantially a proposal to make research that taxpayers have funded available to the country, please tell us your commitment to make sure the public gets access [to this research]. Mr. Leavitt noted that he knows little of this issue but in principal, government funded research should be easily and readily available and should add to the knowledge of an informed public. Mr. Wyden remarked that HHS needs to set the policy at six months because taxpayers already pay twice-once for the research at NIH and again when they have to shell out money for scientific journals. . [Back to top](#)

## **BILLS, BILLS, BILLS**

H.R. 222 – On January 4, Representative Cliff Stearns (R-FL) introduced H.R. 222, a bill to "prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds to conduct or support research on the cloning of humans, and to express the sense of the Congress that other countries should establish substantially equivalent restrictions." The bill was referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and on Science. We will be monitoring the legislation to see whether it moves through committee. We will keep you updated on any developments.

H.R. 162 – On January 4, Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA) introduced H.R. 162, a bill to "authorize the use of Federal funds for research on human embryonic stem cells irrespective of the date on which such stem cells were derived, and for other purposes." The bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. We will be monitoring the legislation to see whether it moves through committee. We will keep you updated on any developments. [Back to top](#)

## **CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE & UPCOMING EVENTS**

The 109<sup>th</sup> Congress convened on January 4, 2005, swearing in the Members of the House and Senate. Both Houses were in recess from January 7 through January 19, but reconvened on January 20 for the Presidential Inauguration. [Back to top](#)

*FASEB's Washington Update* is brought to you bi-monthly by the FASEB Office of Public Affairs. We welcome your questions and comments – please contact Gary Kline, Legislative Analyst at [gkline@faseb.org](mailto:gkline@faseb.org) or (202) 543-1155. For more information about how to get involved in research advocacy, visit: <http://capwiz.com/faseb/home/>