

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Office of Public Affairs

Rockville, MD 20852 Fax: 301.881.2080

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Contact: Benjamin Corb

240.283.6625 (office)

202.841.2701 (cell)

bcorb@asbmb.org

STATEMENT ON RESEARCH FOR LIFESAVING CURES ACT

ROCKVILLE, MD. – As Congress begins debate on the Research for Lifesaving Cures Act, which would fund the National Institutes of Health at fiscal year 2013 levels through December - thus ending the shutdown of the NIH - the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology rejects this proposal, which singles out only one of many federal agencies which fund lifesaving research. “We appreciate Congress’ awareness of the importance of federal support for investments in the National Institutes of Health. However, this approach does little to help the scientific community sustain American research,” said Benjamin Corb, the director of Public Affairs for ASBMB. “Although the NIH is the largest federal investor in biomedical research, other agencies including the National Science Foundation, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy also make critical investments in research that lead to breakthroughs improving the quality of life and well-being of Americans. Furthermore, this bill locks in the post-sequester FY13 funding level for the remainder of FY14.”

On the point of federal funding for science beyond this CR debate, Corb said, “The sequester of science funding has critically damaged the ability of researchers to advance their areas of study. As was shown in a survey conducted by ASBMB of non-defense discretionary funded scientists titled ‘Unlimited Potential, Vanishing Opportunity,’ these data demonstrate that deep cuts to federal investments in research are tearing at the fabric of the nation’s scientific enterprise and have a minimal impact on overcoming our national debt and deficit problems. I hope leaders from both parties in Washington review these findings and join with scientists to say ‘enough is enough.’”

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