

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

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ASBMB: REPUBLICANS CLAIM NIH SUPPORT, BUT RYAN BUDGET TURNS BACK THE CLOCK ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH***Cantor and 22 GOP House members tout support for NIH, but vote to decimate scientific community***

ROCKVILLE, MD – The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, an organization representing more than 12,000 scientists in the United States and globally, is disappointed in today's passage of Rep. Paul Ryan's "Path to Prosperity." In Rep. Ryan's fiscal 2015 budget, he proposes \$791 billion in cuts over the next decade to non-defense discretionary spending, which would drop funding for important programs such as the National Institutes of Health by as much as 1/3 by FY24. These cuts will deeply damage the progress of biomedical research, resulting in a delay in the identification of potentially life-saving treatments for such diseases as cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes. Additionally, these cuts will lead to a loss in American innovation and be a long-term drag to the economy.

"These austere cuts undermine the core government functions that benefit all Americans, including medical and scientific research," said Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for the ASBMB. "Occurring on the heels of years of flat budgets and sequestration, the scientific enterprise simply cannot survive these continuing and deepening cuts. Funding increases are needed in these difficult times to benefit the country and drive the economy forward."

Rep. Ryan and his Republican colleagues have often touted strong support for the NIH, however these same individuals continually vote for budget cuts that would severely damage the scientific community. In particular, Reps. Bill Johnson, Brad Wenstrup, Chris Collins, Chris Smith, Dan Benishek, Dana Rohrabacher, Duncan Hunter, Michael Fitzpatrick, Mike Coffman, Mike Kelly, Pete Olson, Pete King, Shelley Capito, Steve Daines, Steve Stivers, Tim Murphy, Michael Grimm, Reid Ribble, Denny Heck, Andy Barr, Pete Sessions and Lynn Jenkins signed on to the McKinley-King-Carson-Davis letter requesting \$32 billion for the NIH, yet voted for the Ryan budget.

"We appreciate Members of Congress supporting a strong investment in NIH through Dear Colleague letters. However, these same members voted to pass a budget that would make it impossible to make such an investment in the NIH. It is now time for actions to support words," said Corb. "In contrast, ASBMB would like to thank those who supported the NIH by voting against this budget resolution. Americans need more courageous lawmakers such as Reps. Chris Gibson and David McKinley."

Specific to the NIH, ASBMB analysis shows that previous cuts from sequestration have resulted in the loss of more than 1,000 scientists across the nation. In addition, NIH analysis demonstrated that over 600 grants went unfunded due to the same budget cuts. If the Ryan budget were to become law, the devastation would be far worse. An entire generation of American scientists could be lost and cures for deadly diseases and innovative products that boost the economy would be delayed or discovered abroad. Given these drastic cuts, the next decade may lead to the erosion of American leadership in biomedical research, attrition from which may be impossible to recover.

The ASBMB strongly urges Congress to find a fiscally responsible mechanism that addresses our nation's debt and deficit while removing sequestration and other austerity measures that hinder economic progress. Furthermore, the ASBMB is advocating for \$32 billion for the NIH and \$7.6 billion for the NSF to prevent further destruction to the purchasing power of these federal agencies and set the nation on a course to robust growth for this fundamental American enterprise.

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