

**AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

Office of Public Affairs

Rockville, MD 20852 Fax: 301.881.2080

October 28, 2015

**Contact:** Benjamin Corb  
240.283.6625 (office)  
202.841.2701 (cell)  
[bcorb@asbmb.org](mailto:bcorb@asbmb.org)**STATEMENT ON THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT OF 2015**

**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 pleased to see bipartisan action being taken to restore critical funding to both defense and nondefense discretionary spending that keeps Americans healthy, safe and secure. The Society strongly supports and urges passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

The BBA continues the precedent set of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 by replacing sequestration and providing relief equally for defense and nondefense programs over the next two years. In fact, the bill replaces about 90 percent of sequestration cuts in fiscal 2016 and about 60 percent in FY17. This provides Congress with an additional \$55 billion over the next two years to invest in nondefense discretionary programs that grow our economy, educate our citizens, protect them from threats at home and encourage financial stability. By providing equal relief for defense and nondefense programs, this deal shows Americans that Congress can both provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare of this great nation.

"Passage of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement marks an important step in recognizing that the spending caps in place since FY12 do not allow for critical investments in national priorities, one of which is biomedical research. As we have seen throughout the year, there is bipartisan support to increase federal investments in the National Institutes of Health. Raising the caps will allow these increases to happen," said Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for ASBMB.

Failure of this deal, either through poison-pill riders or outright opposition, would mean a continuation of all of the harmful cuts that drag down our nation's scientific enterprise and slow progress in the development of potentially lifesaving treatments, as illustrated in our report, [Unlimited Potential, Vanishing Opportunity](#).

The ASBMB urges members of Congress to vote yes on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 to replace harmful cuts with a balanced approach to deficit reduction. This deal paves the path to a bipartisan agreement on appropriations for the remainder of FY16 and avoids a government shutdown and a full-year continuing resolution. Moving forward, Congress must also take care to avoid poison-pill riders in any appropriations bill that will threaten the implementation of the relief provided in this deal.

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