



February 2, 2009

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Endocrine Society, I am writing to request that you support an amendment that Senator Specter is intending to introduce to "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009," which increases the amount allocated to the National Institutes of Health by \$6.5 billion. The Endocrine Society is the largest professional organization of endocrinologists in the world, comprising more than 14,000 members worldwide. Our organization is dedicated to promoting excellence in research, education, and clinical practice in the field of endocrinology. The Society is comprised of thousands of researchers who depend on federal support for their careers and their scientific advances.

In fiscal year 2007, every \$1 million that the public invested in NIH research generated \$2.21 million in new business activity across the nation. At a recent House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing, Dr. Raynard Kington, Acting Director of the NIH, stated that each NIH grant supports seven jobs on average. Since grants are dispersed to all 50 states and 90 percent of congressional districts, increasing funding for science will have a significant positive impact on job growth. And unlike many other proposals to stimulate the economy, funding NIH grants will have an immediate impact on the economy because these grants can be funded in 4-6 weeks, stimulating local economies through salaries and purchase of equipment, laboratory supplies, and vendor services.

The Endocrine Society remains deeply concerned about the future of biomedical research in the United States without sustained support from the federal government. The Society strongly supports long-term, sustainable increases in federal funding for biomedical research in order to provide the additional resources needed to enable American scientists to address the burgeoning scientific opportunities and new health challenges that continue to confront us. Please support Senator Specter's amendment to S. 1 as a critical first step towards a sustainable, national commitment to fund the science and technology that drives our long-term economic progress. If we can be of assistance to you in any way, please contact Stephanie Kutler, Director of Government Affairs at 301-941-0254 or skutler@endo-society.org.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Carey, MD, MACP
President
The Endocrine Society