

August 11, 2020

### ASBMB Statement on the RISE Act

The following is a statement from Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:

“On June 24, U.S. House Reps. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., Fred Upton, R-Mich., Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Texas., Frank Lucas, R-Okla., Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., and Anthony Gonzalez, R-Ohio. introduced the [Research Investment to Spark the Economy \(RISE\) Act](#) to authorize \$26 billion in emergency relief for federal science agencies to fund U.S. researchers whose work has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RISE Act is an important piece of legislation to ensure that the American research enterprise can restart and continue vital federally funded research that has been slowed down or stopped altogether due to the closure of campuses and laboratories across the country. Many scientists have expressed concern that any widespread and lengthy shutdown could have [tremendous implications](#) for the pace of scientific discovery and result in a significant loss in scientific research and progress.

Researchers are acutely aware of the impact that shutting down research has on their [trainees and graduate students](#), who are already under intense pressure to publish studies to launch their careers. Many universities are no longer allowing undergraduates to work in labs, and most graduate students have restrictions. Without relief from the federal government, scientific research will be stalled for years to come and affect future generations of science, technology, engineering and mathematics professionals.

The RISE Act is necessary to sustain U.S. research, preserve our scientific infrastructure, and protect the innovation pipeline. This important funding will not only allow researchers to restart their projects, but it will also provide critical support to the national’s economy.

We strongly encourage swift bipartisan passage of this legislation to support science.”