

ASBMB STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S FY19 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Benjamin Corb, director of public affairs for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has provided the following statement in response to President Donald Trump's budget proposal for fiscal 2019:

President Trump's budget request to Congress honors the spending levels for nondefense discretionary spending set by lawmakers in their budget deal last week. As a result, the funding levels Trump set forth for the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation are the same as those set in FY17.

But there's more to the story.

The White House today released a spending plan that indicates the president originally sought to cut the NIH budget by \$9.2 billion, or nearly 28 percent, and the NSF budget by \$2.2 billion, or nearly 30 percent. Last week's bipartisan budget agreement, however, won out.

Trump's original budget proposing cuts to the NIH and NSF, however, serves as a window into the president's priorities. It shows that the president continues to fail to recognize the critical role that NIH- and NSF-funded research has played in saving the lives of millions of Americans, as well as countless soldiers, who are the beneficiaries of medical breakthroughs enabled by federal research grants.

Deep cuts like those originally desired by the president threaten America's ability to continue to be the global leader of biomedical research and innovation. Trump's views on the importance of science funding are out of line with the needs of the nation's biomedical researchers and out of line with the views of the populace he serves.

The ASBMB looks forward to continuing its bipartisan work with Congress. The ASBMB will work to secure the most funding possible to support the nation's scientific enterprise.