

ASBMB STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF BUDGET DEAL

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

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology applauds the actions taken by Congress today to avoid a government shutdown and to raise discretionary spending caps, paving the way for the completion of spending bills for the remainder of fiscal year 2018.

The budget deal provides the parity that the ASBMB and other organizations have been calling for—ensuring that increases to discretionary spending are matched by increases in nondefense discretionary spending. This deal raises the fiscal year 2018 and 2019 spending caps by \$130 billion, and represents the largest increase to nondefense discretionary spending in a decade.

Further, the deal includes a commitment from Congress to provide the National Institutes of Health with \$2 billion in new funding over the next two years. This funding increase is critical to keeping America the global leader in life science research and innovation.

This deal is not perfect. While they have been raised, the spending caps are part of a ill conceived fiscal policy and remain. As a result, some of the scientific community's needs will go unmet while Congress works in an environment that provides arbitrary caps on spending.

We urge Congress to now provide for robust investments in science and technology, and enact a final spending package for fiscal 2018.