

July 21, 2020

The ASBMB supports Safeguarding American Innovation Act

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

“I want to thank Senator Portman, Senator Carper and the members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs for the important policy recommendations made in [S. 3997, the Safeguarding the American Innovation Act](#).

This bipartisan legislation will help federally-supported scientists stay on the right side of the law, by implementing a uniform grant application process, streamlining grant reporting requirements and harmonizing data collection on foreign contributions and other support that federally-funded scientists receive for their work. This proposed legislation aims to protect American research from foreign actors while upholding the principles of transparency, openness and collaboration.

American science is – at its core – an international endeavor that has long relied on strong international partnerships with foreign-born scientists, international students and international institutions. The scientific enterprise thrives on international collaboration.

Senator Portman and Senator Carper’s bill helps to protect those important collaborations, but also protects the American taxpayers’ investments in federally-funded research from foreign actors whose intentions are not benign.

We hope that the committee will continue to work on a bipartisan basis with stakeholders in the scientific community to ensure that the best policy ideas are put forth to continue investing in vital scientific research.”