

## **ASBMB STATEMENT ON THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019 (H.R. 3877)**

**ROCKVILLE, Md.** – The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, an organization representing more than 12,000 life scientists in the United States and abroad, is pleased to see a bipartisan agreement to raise spending caps for both defense and nondefense discretionary spending in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

H.R. 3877, also known as The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, will raise nondefense discretionary spending by more than \$27 billion in fiscal year 2020 and allow Congress to invest in programs that keep Americans healthy, safe and secure.

The ASBMB strongly urges passage of H.R. 3877.

Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for the ASBMB, had this to say:

"This Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 provides for increases to the discretionary spending caps established by the Budget Control Act. President Donald Trump's fiscal 2020 budget request adhered to these discretionary spending caps, resulting in proposed deep cuts to funding for federal agencies that support life science research, such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and Department of Energy's Office of Science. The NIH, for example, would be cut by \$4.7 billion in fiscal year 2020 if the president's budget is adopted. Drastic reductions to the budgets of agencies like the NIH run the risk of slowing down progress toward new discoveries and cures for diseases. Passing H.R. 3877, will raise nondefense discretionary spending caps by more than \$27 billion, giving Congress the ability to continue critical investments in scientific discovery. American investments in research and development lead to new technologies and cures for diseases that impact the lives of millions around the world. The ASBMB urges members of Congress to act now and pass H.R. 3877."

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