Statement

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ς The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, an organization representing more than 12,000 scientists in the United States and globally, opposes the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology Act of 2013. The Act, introduced by Rep. Larry Bucshon, R-Ind., and Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, of the U.S. House Science, Space and Technology committee, is a reauthorization of the National Science Foundation meant to replace the expiring America COMPETES Act. However, the new bill contains too many flaws and unnecessary riders to warrant the support of the ASBMB.

Benjamin Corb, public affairs director le it is clear that Chairman Smith, Rep. Bucshon and the Science, Space and Technology committee majority worked hard to improve this bill, they clearly did not fully understand the concerns of the scientific community with regard to reauthorizing the NSF.

A discussion draft of the FIRST Act was distributed this past November and was opposed by the ASBMB and many other scientific societies. This draft contained many onerous provisions affecting merit review and grant application procedures at the Foundation. After a hearing and several meetings with advocates for the scientific community, the SST majority rewrote major sections of the bill. However, many of the unacceptable provisions either remain or are redundant with existing NSF policies and procedures. Additionally, t -year authorization for NSF is a break from previous reauthorization bills, which authorized spending at the NSF for at least three years.

In introducing the FIRST Act, Chairman Smith and Rep. Bucshon released statements that, among other things, expressed concern about global leader in scientific research. [The FIRST

Chairman Smith said,

e FIRST Act

doesn't provide [illegible] research.