

October 28, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

The Endocrine Society – the world’s oldest, largest and most active organization devoted to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology – strongly supports and urges you to support the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA). This deal, brokered by Congressional leadership and the President, restores critical funding equally to both defense and nondefense spending through March 2017, which keeps Americans healthy, safe, and secure and ensures that we do not risk the full faith and credit of the United States by suspending the debt ceiling.

The BBA continues the precedent set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 in replacing sequestration equally for both defense and nondefense over the next two years. In fact, the bill replaces about ninety percent of sequestration cuts in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and sixty percent in FY 2017. This provides Congress with an additional \$55 billion over the next two years to invest in nondefense discretionary programs that grow our economy, educate our citizens, protect them from threats at home, and encourage financial stability. By providing equal relief for defense and nondefense, this deal shows Americans that Congress can both provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare of the nation.

The Society’s membership includes thousands of basic and clinical scientists who receive federal support from the NIH to fund endocrine-related research on topics including diabetes, cancer, fertility, aging, obesity, and bone disease. Failure of this deal would mean a continuation of all of the harmful sequestration cuts that greatly hinder scientific breakthroughs and development of potential novel treatments.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 paves the way to a bipartisan agreement on appropriations for the remainder of FY 2016, avoiding a shutdown and a full year continuing resolution. Moving forward, Congress must also take care to avoid poison pill riders in any appropriations bill that will threaten the implementation of the relief provided in this deal. The Endocrine Society urges Congress to vote yes on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 to replace harmful sequestration cuts with a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fish, MD
President