

June 29, 2008

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
333 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer,

I am writing to express strong support for the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA), introduced on June 25th by Senators Lieberman and Cornyn. This bill expands on the success of the NIH Public Access policy and ensures that taxpayers will have access to more of the published results of research they have funded.

As a publisher of three biomedical research journals, we feel an obligation to give something back to the public that has funded much of the research we publish. Since 2001, we have voluntarily released all of our content to the public six months after publication. Our revenues have not suffered as a consequence; in fact, they have grown every year since then.

Although we have provided such access voluntarily, we recognize the need for Federal mandates because many large, highly profitable publishers, would prefer to keep publicly-funded research hidden behind subscription barriers. The NIH policy already provides public access to thousands of biomedical research articles that would otherwise have been kept under publishers' access controls. We support the expansion of the public access mandate to the other disciplines indicated in the FRPAA.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Rossner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Rossner, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
The Rockefeller University Press

*These comments are the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of The Rockefeller University.*