July 17, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

I am writing on behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU) about Section 217 of H.R. 3043, the FY08 appropriations bill for Labor, HHS, and Education.

AAU includes 60 leading public and private research universities in the United States. The goals of university research are the discovery, creation and dissemination of new knowledge for the benefit of society. Section 217 would make scientific articles that arise from NIH-funded research freely available to the public on PubMed Central within twelve months of publication. The language in your bill will assure that the new knowledge made possible by the American people’s investment in university research is shared with all.

With the understanding that Sec. 217 assures that NIH “shall implement the public access policy in a manner consistent with copyright law,” AAU supports its passage and thanks you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Berdahl
President