S. 779, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act

**LEGISLATION**

S. 779, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR), would make articles resulting from publicly funded scientific research freely available online.

The FASTR would reinforce in statute the public access policy promulgated by the Office of Science and Technology Policy governing peer-reviewed articles resulting from federally-funded research. FASTR would require all federal agencies funding $100 million or more in extramural research expenditures to create comparable federal research public access policies. The legislation calls for each agency’s public access policy to provide for free public access to the results of research that it funds and for the long-term preservation of that information.

**UW SYSTEM POSITION**

**SUPPORT**: The federal government invests almost $39 billion annually in university research, an investment that produces tremendous benefits for the nation’s economic competitiveness, national security, and the quality of life of its citizens.

In 2013-14, University of Wisconsin System institutions engaged in approximately $911.5 million in federally-funded research. UW-Madison consistently ranks among the top universities nationwide in national research expenditures.

Expanding public access to federally-funded research is critical to ensuring that all citizens can benefit from its results. As Sarah Mangelsdorf, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UW-Madison, said in correspondence with U.S. Senator Ron Johnson dated July 20, 2015, “Unfettered access to research articles is the foundation of the current system of discovery, and the catalyst for scientists to build on science...Because U.S. taxpayers directly fund this research, they have a right to expect that its distribution and use will be maximized, and that they themselves will have access to it.”