



Secular Maryland

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February 28, 2023

### **HB 626 - SUPPORT**

Animal Testing and Research - Human-Relevant Research Funding and Animal Testing and Research Licensure

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Kelly, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Secular Maryland supports House Bill 626 which would confer better protection for animals against unnecessary reliance on animals for medical and product testing and research. This bill promotes the development and use of alternatives to animal testing. Current state law lacks consideration for the potential of animals to be harmed. Scientific research has revealed that humans are more similar to our non-human animal counterparts than some people may want to believe. The provisions in this bill strike a sensible balance between the potential harms and benefits from medical and product testing and research on animals. One concern with this bill is that information on testing with animals that must be reported may nevertheless need to be kept under wraps because of the potential for researchers to be threatened by extreme animal rights activists acting outside the law in an effort to shut down all animal testing.

Respectfully,  
Mathew Goldstein  
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