

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241 - House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 23, 2023

RE: Support HB 0626

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and honorable members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I am writing on behalf of MatTek Life Sciences to express our strong support for HB 0626, legislation that would help speed up the transition to non-animal research methods by creating a Human-Relevant Research Fund. This fund would provide grants to private or public facilities developing non-animal research techniques.

MatTek has been a leader in reliable in vitro human tissue model innovation. Our skin, ocular, oral, respiratory, and intestinal tissue models are used to assess safety and efficacy throughout the cosmetics, chemical, pharmaceutical, and household product industries. These advanced tissue models empower companies to achieve their goals of non-animal testing while lowering testing costs and providing human-relevant results.

By minimizing animal testing and focusing on the use of faster, cost effective, and more reliable testing methods, companies can save lives, time, and money. Current alternatives can also provide information of equivalent or superior quality and relevance to humans in comparison to animal tests.

We urge your support of HB 0626 to help make Maryland a leader in the advancement of non-animal test methods for research.

Sincerely,

Alex Armento
MatTek President and CEO