



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 HB0626

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


On behalf of the Institute for In Vitro Sciences (IIVS), I am writing to express our support for HB0626, legislation that would help speed up the transition to non-animal research methods by creating a Human-Relevant Research Fund.

IIVS is a non-profit research and testing laboratory dedicated to the advancement of *in vitro* (non-animal) methods worldwide. Founded in 1997, IIVS is unique in its position as a high-quality testing laboratory, while also offering technical and educational resources to advance the field. Non-animal alternative test methods and strategies can provide more efficient, as well as more predictive, chemical safety assessments. IIVS provides assistance and training to government agencies to help them more efficiently implement these alternative methods and reduce their reliance on animals. In addition, we help industry to choose the appropriate *in vitro* assays needed to inform decision-making.

As a non-profit, we are often ineligible for funding through grants like Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) that support biotech innovations in the field. We are hopeful that the Human-Relevant Research Fund would provide monetary support accessible by groups like ours to not only assist in the development of new methodologies, but fund the validation work necessary to gain scientific confidence in New Approach Methodologies (NAM)s.

Thank you for your support of HB0626 to make Maryland a leader in advancing non-animal methods in research.

Sincerely,

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Amanda Ulrey, RQAP-GLP  
President, Institute for In Vitro Sciences, Inc.