

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

February 20, 2023

RE: Support for HB 626

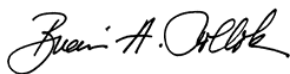
Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and honorable members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

My name is Dr. Brian Pollok and I am a Founder, Board Director and past CEO of Propagenix Inc, located in Gaithersburg, MD. I am writing to express our company's support for HB 626, 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.

Propagenix is a biotechnology company engaged in the development and commercialization of human tissue models for use in drug and chemical testing. Our patented cell culture technology enables cost-efficient production of a wide variety of human cell models such as skin, airway, kidney, intestine, eye and bladder tissues that recapitulate the normal structure and function of these tissues. By creating physiologically-relevant in vitro models for a wide range of human barrier tissues, the need for animal testing – and the attendant animal suffering – will be decreased. These human tissue models will also be more predictive of drug and chemical agent actions than mouse/rabbit/rat/dog models, thereby increasing the efficiency of developing new and safe drugs and consumer products.

Maryland has worked hard to position itself as a hub for research and biotechnology and now is the time to lead the way in advancing the development of human-relevant alternatives to animal testing. We believe that this is a very worthy objective for research overall, and our company is poised to assist in that endeavor.

Sincerely,



Brian A. Pollok, Ph.D.
Co-Founder, Board Director, and Principal Investigator
Propagenix Inc.
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