



Secular Maryland

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### **HB 495 - SUPPORT**

Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals - Licensing and Regulation

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Secular Maryland supports this bill 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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