

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Favorable SB0536 – “Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Regulation”**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine and our members in Maryland, I respectfully submit this letter of support for SB0536, which would mandate the use of nonanimal methods in product testing at private facilities and put limitations on the use of dogs and cats, among other provisions.

Increasingly, it is recognized across research and testing sectors that animals are not good surrogates for humans. Over 85% of Americans recently polled agreed that animal-based experiments should be phased out in support of methods that do not use animals.<sup>1</sup> Animal research and testing often does not translate to humans because there are insurmountable species differences in anatomy, physiology, lifespan, disease characteristics, and more.<sup>2</sup> Maryland should be a national leader in facilitating and encouraging the use of more effective human-based approaches.

SB0536 will lead towards the broader use and acceptance of innovative and more informative human-based approaches to product testing. These methods, like organs on chips, reconstructed human tissues, and sophisticated computer models have existed for some time but unfortunately public policy lags behind in favor of unreliable and ethically problematic animal testing.

The Physicians Committee asks the Committee to advance SB0536 and encourages all members of the Senate to support this legislation. Thank you for your attention to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Andrew Binovi, MPP  
Director of Government Affairs,  
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

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<sup>1</sup> Morning Consult, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. U.S. Gen Pop Beliefs on Animal Testing; 2024. Accessed February 24, 2025. <https://pcrm.widen.net/s/qzfxth7bw/animal-testing-survey>.

<sup>2</sup> Pound P, Ritskes-Hoitinga M. Is it possible to overcome issues of external validity in preclinical animal research? Why most animal models are bound to fail. *J Transl Med*. 2018;16(1):304. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12967-018-1678-1>.