



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

**PO Box 10411
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February 27, 2025

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chair, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Licensing and Regulations – SB 535 – Support

Chair Feldman, Vice- Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chair of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in

Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee vote favorably for Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Licensing and Regulations – SB 535.

This bill would Require each research facility and testing facility in the State that uses animals in research, education, or testing to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture; applying certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; establishing a State Inspector of Animal Welfare in the Department to inspect research facilities and testing facilities; requiring a research facility and a testing facility to notify the State Inspector of certain violations.

The goal of this legislation is to ensure that our state research and testing facilities follow best practices when it comes to the treatment of animals. While proper care of animals used in research has been an ongoing priority for most of the scientific community, there have been some instances of mistreatment of animals in research laboratories. This bill would require transparency for these institutions so that our animals are not suffering, and our research institutions are being held to the highest standards of care for the animals who give up so much for our benefit.

In closing, I would like to thank Senator Kramer for his sponsorship of SB 535 and ask the committee to give this bill a favorable report.