



National Association for BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment
2 West-Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman:

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) is writing in opposition to SB 537, Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Adoption and Reporting Requirements.

This bill proposes to require research facilities to establish an adoption program for retired dogs and cats used in research through a private placement process or a collaborative agreement with a listed “animal rescue organization.” In addition, it would require research and testing facilities to submit to the Department of Agriculture certain information regarding dogs and cats on or before a certain date each year; and require a school or an institution of higher education that uses animals for certain purposes to submit a report on the results of certain inspections to the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year.

For more than 46 years, NABR has been the nation’s only organization solely dedicated to advocating for sound public policy in support of ethical and essential laboratory animal research and the lifesaving discoveries they produce. NABR’s diverse and unified membership includes more than 330 universities, medical and veterinary schools, teaching hospitals, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, patient groups and academic and professional societies that rely on humane and responsible animal research to advance global human and animal health.

Animal research remains vital to our nation’s mission to understand disease, discover targeted therapies, alleviate suffering, and improve and increase the quality of life. Biomedical research projects involving animals are governed by a strict structure of laws, regulations and guidelines and continue to yield invaluable data in the process of discovering new therapies to treat, cure and prevent disease.

This legislation is superfluous as biomedical research facilities involving animals are already governed by a strict structure of laws, regulations and guidelines and continue to yield invaluable data in the process of discovering new therapies to treat, cure and prevent disease. As written, this bill would add additional, unnecessary administrative burden to researchers and institutions in the state of Maryland. Not only that, this legislation could literally fine scientists conducting basic research in the state of Maryland.

We urge the committee to unfavorably report SB 537, so Maryland research facilities can continue to create lifesaving treatments for diseases, discover targeted therapies, alleviate suffering, and improve and increase the quality of life for both humans and animals. Should you or your staff have questions please contact Brandon Morton, NABR’s Vice President of Government Affairs via email at bmorton@nabr.org.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Bailey
President