



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Sponsor Testimony: HB 1448 Alternative Nonanimal Test Methods

Good afternoon, Chair Peña-Melnik and honorable members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 1448, **Animal Testing and Research - Alternative Nonanimal Test Methods**. This bill prohibits certain research facilities in Maryland from using traditional animal testing methods, provided that an alternative nonanimal test method has received approval or the requirement to use a traditional test method is waived. During circumstances where no non-animal alternatives are available, the smallest number of animals possible should be used in order to minimize pain and suffering.

Maryland is a national leader in biomedical industry and research. We spearheaded the effort back in 2023 to create the Human-Relevant Research Fund, which provided Maryland Scientists with grants to develop non-animal technologies. However, now that we have these new non-animal methods, we must mandate that they are prioritized over traditional animal testing methods. Though some might say that animal testing is critical for biomedical research due to animal similarities with humans, this does not hold up in the results.

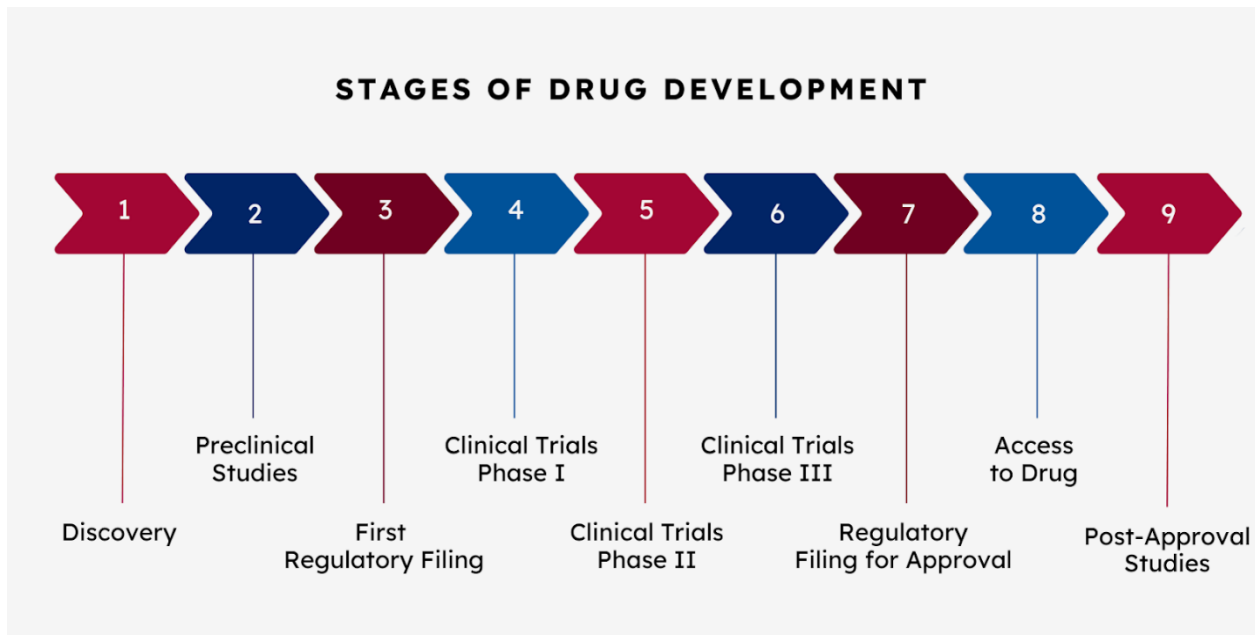
Animal tests are not the best indicators or subjects of human biology. The NIH has studied that almost 90% of human drug testing fails during human clinical trials after having completed animal studies. This is because of the lack of efficacy or unexpected toxicity on humans. Alternative methods such as organ chips, living cells taken from humans, catch these costly errors before moving to clinical studies. These chips help reduce the number of drugs that though may pass animal trials, ultimately fail in human trials. This saves on research and development costs as clinical trials get more expensive as they progress.

Testing facilities also lack requirements to ensure proper reporting and documentation. HB 1448 addresses limitations in federal law to properly gauge the number of animals, non-animal alternatives, and waivers used by Maryland facilities that use animal testing.

If Maryland is to maintain its position as the national leader of biomedical industry and research, we must move away from now outdated animal testing. We must embrace faster, less expensive, and more human-safe alternative testing methods to keep up with states who have already passed similar laws, such as in Virginia and New Jersey.

HB 1448 is the next natural progression in moving Maryland towards a healthier and safer future, one that tackles our most challenging medical issues, one that minimizes unnecessary animal suffering, and one that cements us on the national stage. Thank you all for listening and I respectfully request your favorable consideration.

Addendum



- **Friedrich's Ataxia Research Alliance**
- The average NIH drug development cost for each clinical trial phase is \$13.9 million per drug for phase 1, \$22.2 million per drug for phase 2, and \$12.9 million for phase 3.
 - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10349341/>
- Organ chips slash these costs by almost 25%, going from \$49 million to \$36 million used in R&D.
 - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10615722/#:~:text=organ-on-chips%20offer%20the,the%20efficiency%20of%20the%20research.>