



The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 5, 2025

RE: Support HB 1448

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Cullison, and members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee,

On behalf of the Institute for In Vitro Sciences (IIVS), I am writing to urge a favorable report on HB 1448, legislation which would mandate that product testing facilities in Maryland use available non-animal methods, rather than traditional animal testing, in instances where these methods are accepted by regulatory agencies.

IIVS is non-profit research and testing laboratory based in Gaithersburg, Maryland that is dedicated to the advancement of *in vitro* (non-animal) methods worldwide. Founded in 1997, IIVS is unique in its position as a high-quality testing laboratory, while also offering technical and educational resources to advance the field. IIVS provides assistance and training to government agencies to help them more efficiently implement these alternative methods and reduce their reliance on animals. We have a large portfolio of non-animal methods designed for cosmetics/personal care, household products, specialty chemicals, consumer products, and pharmaceutical industries. Many of these methods have undergone significant validation assessment for regulatory use by international validation bodies and regulatory agencies. IIVS helps industry to choose the appropriate *in vitro* assays needed to inform decision-making. In many cases, regulatory agencies have indicated that they are open to receiving data from these methods, since non-animal alternative test methods and strategies can provide valuable information directly relevant to the human endpoints of interest in final product and chemical safety assessments. HB 1448 helps the uptake of these methods by ensuring that companies are using these types of test methods (and other alternatives) rather than animal tests as soon as regulatory agencies have indicated their acceptance.

Thank you for your support of HB 1448 to make Maryland a leader in utilizing non-animal methods in research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda K. Ulrey", is written over a horizontal line.

Amanda K Ulrey, RQAP-GLP
President, IIVS