



## MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411  
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 17, 2026

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 - Prohibitions and Adoption Requirements (Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026) – SB 423 -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 - Prohibitions and Adoption Requirements (Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026) – SB 423.

SB 423 restricts the use of certain dogs and cats in research and testing facilities; prohibits the devocalization of dogs and cats; limits the use of traditional animal testing methods under specified circumstances; extends existing adoption requirements for animals used in scientific research to testing facilities; and generally strengthens the regulation of research and testing facilities that use animals for research, education, or product testing.

The bill requires laboratories that test chemicals, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and other products to replace animal-based experiments with federally approved non-animal alternatives once those alternatives are available and accepted by the federal government.

Maryland is home to numerous private and academic research institutions that conduct animal testing. However, current accountability measures are insufficient to ensure the humane treatment of animals used in these settings. Even when validated non-animal testing methods exist, there is no assurance that institutions will adopt them. Large research entities are often slow to change, allowing animal testing to continue—or even expand—long after viable alternatives are available. SB 423 establishes clear guardrails governing which animals may be used, how testing is conducted, and other critical aspects of animal research, ensuring that humane best practices are consistently implemented.

Maryland's lab animals are counting on us!

In closing, I would like to thank Senator Kramer for his sponsorship of SB 423 and ask the committee to give this bill a favorable report.