

## Senate Bill 422

**TO:** Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee  
**DATE:** February 15, 2026  
**FROM:** Caroline A. Griffin, Esquire  
**RE:** **SB 422 – Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals  
– Adoption and Reporting Requirements**

### **POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chairman Feldman and Vice-Chair Kagan, my name is Caroline A. Griffin; I am an attorney and reside in Baltimore. I am the Chair of the **Maryland Spay Neuter Advisory Board**. I am the co-founder of the non-profit **Show Your Soft Side, Inc. (SYSS)**, a national anti-cruelty campaign that has photographed professional athletes and celebrities nationwide to demonstrate that compassion to animals is a strength. SYSS supports SB 422, sometimes referred to as The Beagle Bill 2.0.

This bill fulfills the original intent of the Humane Adoption of Companion Animals Used in Research Act of 2018 (Beagle Bill), by requiring research and testing facilities to disclose the number of dogs and cats owned, used, and released to animal rescue organizations to the Department of Agriculture annually. Colleges and universities would also be required to submit the results of USDA inspections to the General Assembly. This limited and reasonable requirement is consistent with a growing national trend of requiring greater transparency in the use of animals in research and testing.

In 2018, SYSS ambassador Torrey Smith, a former Raven and two-time Superbowl Champion, agreed to be photographed with a former research beagle for a billboard campaign with the simple message, “We Support the Beagle Bill” (image attached). In over 250 photo shoots, this was the first and only time that SYSS changed its trademarked campaign tagline of *Only a Punk Would Hurt a Cat or Dog*.

The disclosure requirements of SB 422 are analogous to the requirements that the Supreme Court of Maryland imposes on all lawyers in the state. Each year, lawyers must disclose their *pro bono* hours, as well as their financial contributions to organizations providing such services. Lawyers protested this rule, arguing burden and invasion of privacy. Yet, this reporting requirement has become a rote exercise for all of us, as we live in a world of greater transparency.

I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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