

SB 423_SUPPORT_IIVS.pdf

Uploaded by: Amanda Ulrey

Position: FAV



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

February 11, 2026

RE: Support SB 423

Dear Chair Feldman and honorable members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Institute for In Vitro Sciences (IIVS), I am writing to urge a favorable report on SB 423, legislation that would require facilities testing products such as household cleaners, drugs, pesticides, vaccines, and chemicals to use approved non-animal methods when available, prohibits particularly cruel laboratory practices, and establishes transparency through reporting requirements on animal use in testing.

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, educational, and validation resources to advance the field. Non-animal alternative test methods and strategies can provide product and chemical safety assessments that are more predictive of human outcomes, and often represent the current state-of-the-art advanced science available. 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 the cosmetics, personal care, household products, specialty chemicals, consumer products and pharmaceutical industries. IIVS helps these industries to choose the appropriate *in vitro* assays needed to inform decision-making. SB 423 simply ensures 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. This legislative support for next generation science is key for speeding the change necessary to routinely use these methods in regulatory contexts. The currently available, regulatorily accepted methods have undergone extensive validation efforts to show they are predictive of human outcomes. They are reliable and robust and predictive of human outcomes and this bill will pave the way for greater use of the current scientific technology.

Maryland led the nation by establishing the first state-funded grant program to support scientists developing non-animal research methods. This forward-looking investment strengthens Maryland's standing as a national hub for biotechnology innovation. However, funding innovation alone is not

enough. To fully realize the promise of these modern scientific tools, Maryland must take the next step and require industry to adopt non-animal methods that are approved by the relevant agencies, ensuring that outdated animal testing is replaced with more accurate and effective approaches.

In addition, strong reporting requirements demonstrate that Maryland's research ecosystem operates with accountability and integrity: qualities that matter to investors, grant-makers, and global partners.

Thank you for your support of SB 423 to make Maryland a leader in utilizing non-animal methods in research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Ulrey".

Amanda Ulrey, RQAP-GLP

President

Institute for In Vitro Sciences, Inc.

SB0423 ARDF FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Angela Hvitved

Position: FAV

February 17, 2026

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB0423 The Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act
FAVORABLE

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 0423, The Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act, which builds on the foundation of previous legislation and puts Maryland at the forefront of developing and implementing non-animal testing methods. Our organization, the Alternatives Research & Development Foundation (ARDF), is a non-profit funding organization that supports the development of non-animal research methods and models. Through our grant programs and sponsorship of scientific conferences, ARDF supports rigorous and innovative research to advance the development of human-relevant methods and replace the use of animals in research, education, and testing.

Policy is needed to encourage the use of alternative methods

The Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act is a crucial next step toward realizing the full potential of non-animal, human-relevant testing methods. Whereas the research supported by Maryland's Human-Relevant Research Fund is spurring the development of innovative and groundbreaking non-animal testing methods, overcoming the scientific challenges is only the first step to ushering in a new era of chemical and safety testing. Policy changes are also needed to overcome structural barriers that limit the widespread use of these methods. The Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act would help encourage companies and facilities to adopt the most up-to-date and effective methods for chemical and safety testing. Transitioning to non-animal testing methods has several potential benefits, but change can be difficult, even when it is for the better. Requiring facilities to use approved non-animal methods when applicable creates an important incentive for investing in the adoption of new practices. Establishing reporting requirements for the use of animals and alternative methods for product testing ensures that the implementation of alternative methods is transparent and that progress can be tracked.

Leveraging Maryland's role as a leader in this area

We enthusiastically supported creation of the Human-Relevant Research Fund, which set Maryland apart as the first state in the nation to create a dedicated fund for alternative methods research. As the home of the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and Johns Hopkins University, Maryland residents include some of the most successful and innovative biomedical researchers in the country, and the companies along the I-270 biotechnology corridor are a testament to the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of Maryland's diverse and highly-educated workforce. Maryland has an impressive track record of recognizing the importance of new technologies and wisely investing in them. Both the past and future investments in these technologies need to be buttressed by sound policy such as S.B 0423, in order to ensure that Marylanders continue to benefit from these advances.

Sincerely,



Angela Hvitved
Director
Alternatives Research & Development Foundation

SB423_Humane VMA_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Carrie Waters

Position: FAV



Formerly called the Humane
Society of the United States

Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance

1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100

humaneworld.org/HumaneVMA

February 17, 2026

Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Two West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **Veterinary Support for SB 423** Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and members of the committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance (HumaneVMA), a national organization of more than 8,000 veterinary professional members (including 60 Maryland veterinarians) with a focus on the health and welfare of all animals, including those used in research. We strongly support SB 423, the Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026.

This bill requires Maryland product testing facilities to use non-animal testing methods when they are available, provide information of equivalent or superior scientific quality and relevance, and approved by the relevant federal agencies. It also mandates minimizing animal use and suffering when no non-animal alternatives exist, and requires annual reporting on the use of animals, alternatives, and waivers. The legislation builds on Maryland's leadership in advancing human-relevant research and aims to promote innovation, transparency, and investment in non-animal technologies.

Non-animal methods—such as advanced cell-based systems and organs-on-chips—can better replicate human biology and often outperform animal tests in predicting human outcomes. Animal testing has well-documented scientific limitations, including species differences that contribute to high drug failure rates in human clinical trials. By requiring companies to adopt modern alternatives as they become available, SB 423 would help ensure safer, more reliable product testing while phasing in changes to allow industry compliance.

SB 423 also strengthens protections for dogs and cats used in research. It reinforces compliance with Maryland's 2018 Beagle Bill by requiring annual reporting on the number of animals used and adopted, bans cruel devocalization procedures, and mandates humane euthanasia using sodium pentobarbital under veterinary supervision. Additionally, the bill enhances transparency by requiring more comprehensive reporting on animal use in Maryland facilities, providing the public with a clearer understanding of research practices in the state.

For these reasons, the HumaneVMA respectfully encourages the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to support SB 423.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie B. Waters".

Carrie B. Waters, DVM, PhD, JD, DACVIM
Maryland State Representative
Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance (HumaneVMA)

SB 423 FAVORABLE American Anti Vivisection Society

Uploaded by: Crystal Schaeffer

Position: FAV



801 Old York Road
Suite 204
Jenkintown, PA 19046-1611
Phone: 215.887.0816
Fax: 215.887.2088
Web: www.aavs.org

Bill: SB 423

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Favorable

Date: February 13, 2026

Dear Chairman Feldman,

On behalf of our members and supporters, including those in Maryland, thank you for allowing our organization to provide comments on SB 423. Founded in 1883, the American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS) is the first non-profit animal advocacy and educational organization in the United States dedicated to ending the use of animals in science and we do so through education, advocacy, and the development of alternative methods. We also monitor the use of animals in science including progress made in the field of alternatives. AAVS supports SB 423 because this legislation will spare the lives of dogs, cats, and other animals used in research and testing in Maryland, and it will advance the use of reliable, non-animal test methods.

There are problems with testing on animals. Approximately 90% of drugs tested on animals fail in human clinical trials. Science has come to understand the benefits of using advanced in vitro test methods based on human biology, which makes them more accurate predictors of human responses to drugs and chemicals. Cost savings and savings in time are also added value of non-animal methods.

Maryland became a leader in non-animal science when it established the Human-Relevant Research Fund in 2023. This groundbreaking law created a grant program for scientists in the state developing non-animal test methods. SB 423 ensures that such alternative methods are being used as soon as they are accepted by the appropriate regulatory agencies. AAVS also supports SB 423 because it would prohibit research and testing facilities from engaging in extreme practices that cause animal suffering.

Protecting Dogs and Cats, Ensuring Their Welfare, and Reducing Their Use in Research and Testing

SB 423 requires research and testing facilities located in Maryland to ensure that the number of dogs and cats used in research or testing is reduced to the smallest number possible by using scientifically reliable and relevant methods that do not involve the use of dogs or cats. SB 423 also prohibits research and testing facilities from performing and using a dog or cat who has undergone a devocalization, painful, unnecessary procedure often done to limit noise from barking, not for the benefit or welfare of the animal.

Chairman Feldman
Page 2
February 13, 2025

SB 423 also requires that the dogs and cats used by research and testing facilities must be euthanized only by a lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital administered either by a veterinarian licensed in Maryland or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian licensed in the state. Improper euthanasia can cause pain and unnecessary suffering.

Private Research and Testing Facilities Are Required to Use Non-Animal Test Methods

SB 423 has a common sense provision to save animals from unnecessary pain and suffering by prohibiting research and testing facilities from using a traditional animal test method if the agency responsible for regulating the specific product or activity for which a test method is used has: (1) approved a test method that does not use animals; or (2) granted a research or testing facility a waiver from using a traditional animal test method. Because non-animal methods are more applicable to human conditions, this will help to save both animal and human lives.

Requirement to Report the Use of Animals in Research and Testing

Increasing transparency, SB 423 requires research and testing facilities in Maryland to report information regarding animal use to the state Secretary of Agriculture, including numbers of each species of animals used and housed; numbers of dogs and cats released for adoption; and alternative methods used to replace animals tests. This data is vital in monitoring animal use in laboratories as it can not only show trends in what types of animals are used and whether their numbers are going up or down, but also the extent to which alternatives are being adopted by regulators and used by facilities. This latter point reinforces an important directive in the federal Animal Welfare Act that requires researchers to consider alternatives to painful procedures.

Conclusion

SB 423 represents a significant and humane step forward for Maryland. This bill will prevent unnecessary suffering and spare the lives of dogs, cats, and other animals, and it will advance the use of scientifically reliable and relevant non-animal test methods. AAVS supports SB 423.

Sincerely,

Crystal Schaeffer
AAVS Outreach Director

Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Us

Uploaded by: Lisa Radov

Position: FAV



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.

NAVS Support_MD SB 422 and SB 423.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith Blanchard

Position: FAV



NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY
444 N. WELLS ST., SUITE 406
CHICAGO, IL 60654

PHONE: (312) 427-6065
FAX: (312) 427-6524
EMAIL: NAVS@NAVS.ORG
WEB: WWW.NAVS.ORG

February 11th, 2026

RE: SUPPORT for SB 422 & SB 423

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Distinguished Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) respectfully submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 422 and Senate Bill 423 on behalf of our supporters throughout the state of Maryland. Together, these bills represent thoughtful, responsible, and forward-looking reforms to Maryland law governing the use of animals in research and testing facilities.

SB 422 enhances transparency and ensures meaningful adoption opportunities for dogs and cats used in research and testing. SB 423 modernizes Maryland's statutory framework by prioritizing scientifically validated non-animal methods, establishing humane treatment standards, and aligning state law with evolving scientific best practices.

These measures advance scientific integrity, ethical responsibility, and public trust.

Support for SB 422 – Transparency and Adoption Protections

SB 422 appropriately expands Maryland's existing adoption protections to include both research and testing facilities. Under the bill, facilities must take reasonable steps to provide for the adoption of dogs and cats no longer used for scientific experiments, including establishing private placement processes and working with approved rescue organizations.

This reform ensures that animals who have already endured laboratory use are given a meaningful opportunity for placement in loving homes. Many dogs and cats used in laboratories are highly adoptable when given appropriate behavioral assessment and support. Adoption programs in other states have proven manageable for facilities.

SB 422 also strengthens transparency by requiring research and testing facilities to report annually the number of dogs and cats owned and used, as well as the number released to rescue organizations. The Secretary must aggregate and publish this information. Public reporting promotes accountability, enables data-driven policy evaluation, and reassures Maryland residents that animals are not being discarded without oversight.

In addition, SB 422 requires schools and institutions of higher education to report the results of USDA or other federal inspections, including violations, to the General Assembly. This provision enhances legislative oversight and ensures that inspection findings do not remain inaccessible to policymakers or the public.

These are balanced, reasonable measures that improve oversight without impeding scientific activity.

Support for SB 423 – Modernizing Animal Testing Standards

SB 423 builds on transparency reforms by modernizing how and when animals may be used in testing facilities.

1. Promoting Scientifically Valid Human-Relevant Methods

The bill defines and prioritizes “alternative test methods” that do not use live vertebrate animals and produce *equivalent or better* scientific quality. Testing facilities may not use traditional animal test methods if a federal agency has approved an alternative or granted a waiver.

This approach reflects current federal policy trends and scientific consensus that validated non-animal methods—such as computational toxicology, high-throughput screening, and in-vitro systems—can provide more human-relevant data while reducing cost and time. Importantly, the bill does not prohibit animal testing outright; it requires its use only when scientifically necessary and when no accepted human-based methods exists.

By doing so, Maryland positions itself as a leader in 21st-century science while maintaining safeguards for public health and safety.

2. Humane Treatment Standards

SB 423 establishes clear humane protections for dogs and cats used in research and testing. Facilities may not use or perform devocalization surgeries on dogs or cats. Additionally, euthanasia is restricted to lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital administered by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

These provisions set minimum humane standards consistent with widely accepted veterinary practices and ethical expectations. They prevent particularly troubling procedures while preserving necessary veterinary authority and oversight.

3. Enhanced Reporting and Accountability

Beginning January 31, 2028, testing facilities must report annually the number of each species used, the number of dogs and cats released for adoption, the types and numbers of alternative and traditional test methods used, any waivers relied upon, and the purposes of testing conducted. Research facilities must also report adoption outcomes.

The Secretary must aggregate and publish this information.

This level of reporting allows Maryland to track progress in the reduction and replacement of animal testing and ensures that policy goals translate into measurable outcomes.

Advancing Ethical Science and Public Trust

Together, SB 422 and SB 423 advance three core principles:

1. **Replacement** – Encouraging scientifically validated non-animal methods when available.
2. **Reduction** – Requiring minimization of animal use where alternatives are not available.
3. **Responsibility** – Ensuring humane standards, transparency, and adoption pathways.

These reforms do not impede legitimate biomedical research, which is explicitly distinguished from certain testing provisions in SB 423. Rather, they align Maryland law with evolving scientific capabilities and public expectations.

Maryland has the opportunity to lead by adopting policies that reflect both innovation and compassion.

For the reasons outlined above, the National Anti-Vivisection Society respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 422 and Senate Bill 423.

Thank you for your consideration and your past actions to protect animals in laboratories.

Sincerely,



Meredith Blanchard
Director of Advocacy and Policy
National Anti-Vivisection Society

Maryland_2023_YouGov Poll.pdf

Uploaded by: Stacey Volodin

Position: FAV

Humane Society U.S. - Maryland February 2023

Online sample of 532 voters fielded from February 06 to February 16, 2023.
Margin of error: +/-5%.



Animal Testing Alternatives

Do you [support or oppose] the Maryland state government investing public funds into new research and development techniques that allow researchers to test the safety of products and medicines without the use of animal testing?

	Age					Gender			Education				Race				
	18-29	30-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Man	Woman	Less than college	College	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Total	64	146	86	106	128	242	278	271	260	332	124	17	59				
Strongly support	41%	54%	50%	44%	44%	43%	49%	49%	45%	50%	38%	*	48%				
Somewhat support	39%	25%	24%	36%	35%	32%	30%	27%	34%	28%	37%	*	39%				
Somewhat oppose	10%	9%	13%	7%	4%	12%	6%	7%	10%	10%	6%	*	6%				
Strongly oppose	0%	5%	3%	6%	9%	7%	4%	6%	4%	6%	3%	*	5%				
Don't know	11%	7%	9%	7%	8%	6%	11%	10%	6%	6%	17%	*	3%				
N	64	146	86	106	128	242	278	271	260	332	124	17	59				

	Marital Status		Child U18		Employment			Union Household			Income		
	Married	Not married	Yes	No	Full Time	Not FT	Union HH	Not union HH	Not sure	<50K	100K+	50-100K	
Total	46%	49%	43%	49%	46%	49%	45%	48%	*	51%	44%	51%	
Strongly support	32%	30%	32%	31%	32%	30%	33%	30%	*	27%	32%	32%	
Somewhat support	9%	7%	13%	7%	11%	6%	9%	9%	*	5%	12%	8%	
Somewhat oppose	7%	3%	6%	5%	4%	6%	6%	5%	*	5%	6%	4%	
Don't know	5%	11%	6%	9%	7%	9%	8%	9%	*	13%	6%	5%	
N	249	282	108	423	249	282	104	415	12	122	191	181	

	Party ID			Ideology			Biden Job			2020 Vote			
	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Lib.	Mod.	Cons.	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure	Biden	Trump	Other	Did not vote
Total	54%	33%	46%	64%	37%	37%	53%	42%	*	55%	34%	*	*
Strongly support	29%	35%	29%	24%	40%	28%	32%	29%	*	28%	34%	*	*
Somewhat support	7%	11%	11%	6%	7%	14%	7%	11%	*	7%	12%	*	*
Somewhat oppose	2%	14%	2%	1%	3%	15%	1%	11%	*	1%	14%	*	*
Strongly oppose													

continued on the next page ...

Humane Society U.S. - Maryland February 2023

Online sample of 532 voters fielded from February 06 to February 16, 2023.

Margin of error: +/-5%.



continued from previous page

	Party ID				Ideology			Biden Job			2020 Vote			
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Lib.	Mod.	Cons.	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure	Biden	Trump	Other	Did not vote
Don't know	8%	8%	7%	12%	5%	13%	7%	6%	7%	*	9%	7%	*	*
N	531	322	147	62	211	203	118	291	216	24	328	161	21	21

Humane Society U.S. - Maryland February 2023

Online sample of 532 voters fielded from February 06 to February 16, 2023.
Margin of error: +/-5%.



Prohibit Animal Testing for Non-Medical Research

Do you [support or oppose] Maryland prohibiting testing on animals for non-medical research such as pesticides, household cleaners, and food additives?

	Age					Gender			Education				Race			
	18-29	30-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Man	Woman	Less than college	College	White	Black	Hispanic	Other			
Total	64	147	86	106	128	243	278	271	261	332	124	17	60			
Strongly support	43%	52%	50%	49%	48%	46%	51%	51%	46%	52%	37%	*	48%			
Somewhat support	34%	21%	19%	20%	14%	21%	19%	17%	24%	19%	23%	*	26%			
Somewhat oppose	3%	12%	15%	12%	13%	14%	10%	11%	12%	13%	11%	*	5%			
Strongly oppose	4%	10%	7%	8%	17%	12%	9%	13%	8%	9%	11%	*	15%			
Don't know	17%	5%	9%	11%	8%	7%	11%	8%	10%	7%	17%	*	5%			
N	64	147	86	106	128	243	278	271	261	332	124	17	60			

	Marital Status		Child U18		Employment			Union Household			Income		
	Married	Not married	Yes	No	Full Time	Not FT	Union HH	Not union HH	Not sure	<50K	100K+	50-100K	
Total	50%	48%	46%	50%	50%	48%	51%	48%	*	48%	49%	50%	
Strongly support	20%	21%	25%	19%	24%	17%	19%	21%	*	14%	20%	25%	
Somewhat support	12%	11%	17%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%	*	13%	13%	9%	
Strongly oppose	10%	11%	7%	11%	8%	12%	13%	10%	*	16%	8%	10%	
Don't know	8%	10%	4%	10%	6%	11%	6%	9%	*	10%	9%	6%	
N	250	282	108	424	250	282	105	415	12	122	191	181	

	Party ID			Ideology			Biden Job			2020 Vote			
	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Lib.	Mod.	Cons.	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure	Biden	Trump	Other	Did not vote
Total	52%	45%	41%	62%	38%	45%	50%	51%	*	53%	42%	*	*
Strongly support	22%	17%	19%	16%	26%	18%	24%	15%	*	19%	18%	*	*
Somewhat support	8%	16%	18%	7%	13%	16%	10%	14%	*	10%	16%	*	*
Strongly oppose	8%	17%	5%	7%	11%	16%	7%	14%	*	8%	18%	*	*
Don't know	9%	5%	17%	9%	12%	5%	9%	7%	*	11%	6%	*	*

continued on the next page ...

Humane Society U.S. - Maryland February 2023

Online sample of 532 voters fielded from February 06 to February 16, 2023.

Margin of error: +/-5%.



continued from previous page

	Party ID			Ideology			Biden Job			2020 Vote			
	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Lib.	Mod.	Cons.	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure	Biden	Trump	Other	Did not vote
Total	322	148	62	211	203	119	291	217	24	328	161	21	22
N	532												

Humane Society U.S. - Maryland February 2023

Online sample of 532 voters fielded from February 06 to February 16, 2023.
Margin of error: +/-5%.



Prohibit Animal Testing for Product Toxicity Levels

Would you [support or oppose] a law in Maryland that would prohibit testing on dogs and other animals to determine the toxicity of products such as pesticides and food additives?

	Age					Gender		Education			Race			
	18-29	30-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Man	Woman	Less than college	College	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
Total	64	147	86	106	128	243	278	271	261	332	124	17	60	
Strongly support	47%	53%	49%	57%	56%	54%	52%	55%	51%	60%	36%	*	48%	
Somewhat support	31%	15%	24%	18%	13%	18%	19%	15%	22%	15%	27%	*	24%	
Somewhat oppose	2%	12%	13%	9%	9%	11%	9%	8%	12%	10%	12%	*	5%	
Strongly oppose	6%	15%	10%	8%	16%	13%	10%	15%	9%	10%	11%	*	19%	
Don't know	15%	4%	4%	8%	6%	4%	9%	8%	6%	5%	15%	*	3%	
N	64	147	86	106	128	243	278	271	261	332	124	17	60	

	Marital Status		Child U18		Employment		Union Household			Income		
	Married	Not married	Yes	No	Full Time	Not FT	Union HH	Not union HH	Not sure	<50K	100K+	50-100K
Total	58%	49%	45%	55%	53%	54%	54%	53%	*	46%	53%	58%
Strongly support	16%	21%	21%	18%	23%	15%	15%	20%	*	17%	19%	19%
Somewhat support	12%	7%	22%	7%	11%	9%	14%	8%	*	8%	14%	8%
Strongly oppose	10%	13%	8%	13%	10%	14%	13%	12%	*	21%	6%	13%
Don't know	4%	9%	4%	7%	4%	9%	5%	7%	*	8%	8%	3%
N	250	282	108	424	250	282	105	415	12	122	191	181

	Party ID			Ideology			Biden Job			2020 Vote			
	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Lib.	Mod.	Cons.	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure	Biden	Trump	Other	Did not vote
Total	56%	52%	45%	65%	44%	48%	54%	55%	*	57%	47%	*	*
Strongly support	19%	18%	20%	15%	21%	21%	19%	17%	*	16%	19%	*	*
Somewhat support	9%	10%	13%	6%	11%	14%	10%	10%	*	9%	12%	*	*
Strongly oppose	9%	19%	8%	8%	14%	15%	9%	16%	*	9%	20%	*	*

continued on the next page ...

Humane Society U.S. - Maryland February 2023

Online sample of 532 voters fielded from February 06 to February 16, 2023.

Margin of error: +/-5%.



continued from previous page

	Party ID				Ideology			Biden Job			2020 Vote			
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Lib.	Mod.	Cons.	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure	Biden	Trump	Other	Did not vote
Don't know	7%	8%	1%	14%	7%	9%	2%	8%	2%	*	9%	2%	*	*
N	532	322	148	62	211	203	119	291	217	24	328	161	21	22

Humane Society U.S. - Maryland February 2023

Online sample of 532 voters fielded from February 06 to February 16, 2023.
Margin of error: +/-5%.



Require Labs to Disclose Research

Would you [support or oppose] legislation to require laboratories in Maryland to disclose the number of animals used in research and testing and the purpose of those experiments?

	Age				Gender		Education				Race			
	18-29	30-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Man	Woman	Less than college	College	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
Total	64	147	86	106	128	243	278	271	261	332	124	17	60	
Strongly support	58%	64%	55%	59%	59%	57%	58%	60%	57%	61%	44%	*	67%	
Somewhat support	22%	17%	26%	19%	24%	23%	22%	21%	24%	23%	28%	*	11%	
Somewhat oppose	6%	2%	6%	10%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	*	9%	
Strongly oppose	6%	2%	7%	6%	5%	9%	4%	6%	6%	6%	6%	*	11%	
Don't know	7%	15%	4%	7%	6%	4%	10%	7%	6%	4%	16%	*	2%	
N	532	64	147	86	106	243	278	271	261	332	124	17	60	

	Marital Status		Child U18		Employment		Union Household				Income	
	Married	Not married	Yes	No	Full Time	Not FT	Union HH	Not union HH	Not sure	<50K	100K+	50-100K
Total	59%	58%	50%	61%	59%	58%	54%	60%	*	55%	57%	64%
Strongly support	22%	23%	26%	22%	21%	24%	28%	21%	*	20%	24%	22%
Somewhat support	6%	5%	11%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	*	5%	9%	5%
Strongly oppose	6%	6%	7%	6%	7%	5%	7%	6%	*	10%	6%	5%
Don't know	7%	8%	6%	7%	6%	8%	5%	7%	*	10%	4%	5%
N	250	282	108	424	250	282	105	415	12	122	191	181

	Party ID			Ideology			Biden Job			2020 Vote			
	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Lib.	Mod.	Cons.	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure	Biden	Trump	Other	Did not vote
Total	65%	49%	49%	72%	52%	45%	63%	55%	*	63%	47%	*	*
Strongly support	20%	28%	20%	17%	23%	31%	23%	23%	*	22%	26%	*	*
Somewhat support	4%	8%	12%	3%	8%	10%	5%	8%	*	5%	9%	*	*
Strongly oppose	3%	13%	7%	3%	7%	11%	3%	10%	*	3%	12%	*	*

continued on the next page ...

Humane Society U.S. - Maryland February 2023
 Online sample of 532 voters fielded from February 06 to February 16, 2023.
 Margin of error: +/-5%.



continued from previous page

	Party ID			Ideology			Biden Job			2020 Vote				
	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Lib.	Mod.	Cons.	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure	Biden	Trump	Other	Did not vote
Don't know	7%	8%	3%	12%	5%	11%	3%	6%	4%	*	7%	5%	*	*
N	532	322	148	62	211	203	119	291	217	24	328	161	21	22

SB 423 Humane World for Animals FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Stacey Volodin

Position: FAV

February 17, 2026

**Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
SB423 - Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026
FAVORABLE**

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

Humane World for Animals, formerly called the Humane Society of the United States, and our Maryland supporters urge a favorable report on SB 423, the Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026. This important legislation builds upon work already passed by the Maryland General Assembly and creates a requirement that product testing facilities in Maryland use available non-animal methods instead of traditional animal tests when already approved by federal agencies as well as provides protections for dogs and cats used in research facilities in the state of Maryland.

Specifically, SB 423:

- Furthers the work completed in 2023 with the establishment of a first of its kind Human-Relevant Research Fund.
- Requires product testing facilities in Maryland to use non-animal methods when they are available and provide equivalent or superior scientific information to assess the safety of products such as household cleaners, drugs, pesticides, vaccines and chemical substances once they are accepted for use by the relevant regulatory agencies.
- Prohibits the use of a traditional animal test when the regulatory agency allows the use of a waiver instead.
- Mandates the use of animal tests that use the smallest number of animals and minimize pain and suffering when there is no non-animal alternative or waiver available.
- Bans devocalization and mandates humane euthanasia for dogs and cats.
- Requires all research facilities to annually report the number of dogs and cats adopted into homes after their time in research has ended and for product testing facilities to provide data on their use of animal methods and non-animal alternatives.

SB 423 is similar to legislation considered by this committee in 2025 (SB 536). That bill's fiscal note reflected that it was "expected to be implemented with existing resources" and that it is "not expected to significantly affect local government finances."

Alternatives Mandate

SB 423 requires product testing facilities to use test methods that replace animal testing when they are available, provide information of equivalent or better scientific quality and relevance, and approved by the relevant federal agencies. It also requires reporting on the use of traditional animal

methods and alternatives. This provision applies to products such as household cleaners, drugs, pesticides and industrial chemicals. The provision does not prohibit the use of animal tests to comply with specific requirements of state or federal agencies and provides a phase-in period so companies have time to adjust their testing strategies as new non-animal alternatives are approved for use.

While animal testing will always have limitations, non-animal testing strategies can more closely mimic how the human body responds to drugs and chemical substances. The National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods provides a list of more than 100 methods or guidance documents that completely replace or reduce animal use that are accepted by U.S. agencies on its website.¹ As just one example from this list, comprehensive studies have shown that non-animal approaches to test chemicals for the likelihood of causing skin allergies are more reliable predictors of human outcomes than the typical animal test methods.² Late last year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research also published their own list of accepted alternative methods that could be used to evaluate new drugs.³ This list makes it clear to pharmaceutical companies when non-animal methods can be used.

Unlike traditional animal test methods, sophisticated non-animal approaches to toxicity testing will only continue to improve. The future of non-animal science includes "organs-on-chips," which are tiny 3D chips created from human cells that look and function like miniature human organs. Organs-on-chips are used to determine how human systems respond to different drugs or chemicals and to find out exactly what happens during infection or disease. Several organs, representing heart, liver, lungs or kidneys, for example, can be linked together through a "microfluidic" circulatory system to create an integrated "human-on-a-chip" model that lets researchers assess multi-organ responses.⁴

Maryland should be a scientific and technological leader in non-animal alternatives.

In 2023, Maryland became the first state in the nation to prioritize human-relevant research by establishing a dedicated fund to provide grants to scientists in the state developing these non-animal technologies. SB 423 will ensure that companies in Maryland are taking advantage of these new testing strategies as soon as they are approved for use and attract additional investment from the biotech industry.

Additional protection for dogs and cats

According to 2024 data from the United States Department of Agriculture, approximately 90 dogs and 300 cats were used in Maryland research facilities covered by the provisions of this bill. SB 423 requires reporting on compliance with the 2018 Beagle Bill, prohibits devocalization, and requires humane euthanasia for dogs and cats used in Maryland laboratories.

¹ NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) Alternative Methods Accepted by U.S. Agencies. (2023, Feb 23). Retrieved from: <https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/whatwestudy/niceatm/accept-methods/index.html>

² Kleinstreuer NC et al., Non-animal methods to predict skin sensitization (II): an assessment of defined approaches. 2018 Critical Reviews in Toxicology, 48:5, 359-374, doi: 10.1080/10408444.2018.1429386

³ U.S. FDA. (2025, December). CDER/Office of New Drugs Streamlined Nonclinical Studies and Acceptable New Approach Methodologies (NAMs). Retrieved from: <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/center-drug-evaluation-and-research-cder/cderoffice-new-drugs-streamlined-nonclinical-studies-and-acceptable-new-approach-methodologies-nams>

⁴ National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. Meet Chip. (2022, March 18). Retrieved from: <https://ncats.nih.gov/tissuechip/chip>

In 2018, the Maryland legislature unanimously passed the Beagle Bill, which required all animal research facilities to offer dogs and cats that are no longer needed for research or testing purposes to animal rescue organizations or facilitate the adoption of these animals via a private, internal adoption program.⁵ SB 423 ensures that facilities are complying with the Beagle Bill by requiring annual reporting on the numbers of dogs and cats used and adopted. It also requires the Department of Agriculture to create an aggregate report on this information for the public.

Devocalization, or ventriculocordectomy, is the surgical removal of part or most of an animal's vocal cords. When performed on dogs or cats it prevents them from barking or meowing. Dogs and cats can suffer physical consequences as a result of devocalization including infection, chronic coughing and aspiration pneumonia.⁶ Aside from such physical problems, devocalized dogs and cats have a decreased ability to communicate, creating potential psychological harm. SB 423 prohibits research facilities from performing devocalization surgery on dogs and cats or using a dog or cat that has received these procedures.

SB 423 also requires that dogs and cats in private research facilities only be euthanized through the injection of sodium pentobarbital by, or under the supervision of, a licensed veterinarian. Sodium pentobarbital is considered the most humane method for euthanasia of dogs and cats⁷ and is considered the preferred method for companion dogs and cats according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.⁸

Transparency

In the United States, the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires research facilities to annually report the number of warm-blooded animals used in research and testing. Unfortunately, the AWA specifically excludes birds, rats and mice bred for use in research as well as commonly used cold-blooded species such as fish. These species represent the vast majority of animals used in research and testing (up to 99%) and research facilities are not required to report how many of these animals are being used. SB 423 will give a more complete picture of how many animals are actually being used in Maryland by requiring product testing facilities to report annually on their use of animals, alternative test methods and waivers used. This reporting will also ensure that the law is effectively implemented.

Scientific limitations of animal testing

The continued use of animal models for human disease or to assess the possible impact of substances on the human body carries serious scientific limitations. Different species can respond differently when exposed to the same drugs or chemicals. Consequently, results from animal tests may not be relevant to humans, under- or over-estimating real world health hazards. It should not be surprising, therefore, that more than 90% of human drugs fail during clinical trials⁹ after having completed extensive animal studies. These failures are due to unexpected toxicity in human patients or lack of efficacy (whether it is safe and/or effective). In addition, animals do not always

⁵ Md. Code Ann., Agriculture § 15-101 (2018).

⁶ American Veterinary Medical Association. (2023). Literature review on the welfare implications of canine devocalization. Retrieved from: <https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/avma-lit-review-canine-devocalization-0323.pdf>

⁷ World Society for the Protection of Animals. Methods for the euthanasia of dogs and cats: comparison and recommendations. (n.d.) Retrieved from: https://caninerabiesblueprint.org/IMG/pdf/Link72_Euthanasia_WSPA.pdf

⁸ American Veterinary Medical Association. AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 Edition. (2020). Retrieved from: <https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Guidelines-on-Euthanasia-2020.pdf>

⁹ National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. About New Therapeutic Uses. (2022, March 23). Retrieved from: <https://ncats.nih.gov/ntu/about>

develop the same diseases as humans, or the impact of the disease varies greatly by species. Often treatments that seem incredibly promising in animal models turn out to not be effective in treating human diseases. SB 423 requires research facilities to move away from outdated animal testing and instead use more human-relevant non-animal methods.

Government bodies and regulatory agencies are embracing non-animal science

Passage of SB 423 would bring Maryland in line with four other states that have already passed similar laws to require the use of available alternatives (Virginia, New Jersey, New York and California). Similar bills are also under consideration in Massachusetts and Illinois.

Federal agencies are also pushing for the development and use of modern human-based technology. In 2016, Congress revised the Toxic Substances Control Act, which included a provision directing the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce and replace the use of animals in chemical testing. More recently, announcements from the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health demonstrate the ongoing commitment from federal agencies to shifting research from animal-based methods to those based on human biology. In its Roadmap to Reducing Animal Testing in Preclinical Safety Studies, FDA, which does not legally require animal testing for drug approval, declared its intention to “make animal studies the exception rather than the norm for pre-clinical safety/toxicity testing.”¹⁰

Strong public support

A YouGov Blue poll conducted in 2023 demonstrates that Maryland voters strongly support efforts to limit animal use in research and testing, the development of non-animal methods and increased transparency (see enclosure).

- Seventy-nine percent of Maryland voters support state investment in research and development techniques that don’t require animal testing, with only 13 percent opposed.
- Sixty-nine percent support prohibiting animal testing for non-medical reasons, with 21 percent opposed.
- Seventy-two percent support banning animal testing to determine product toxicity, with 22 percent opposed.
- Eighty percent of Maryland voters support requiring the disclosure of the number of animals used in animal testing and the purpose of the testing, a proposal only 12 percent of voters oppose.

Humane World for Animals urges a favorable report on SB 423.

Thank you,

Stacey Volodin
Maryland State Director
Humane World for Animals
svolodin@humaneworld.org

Mary Hilley
Specialist, Animal Research Issues
Humane World for Animals

¹⁰ U.S. FDA (2025). Roadmap to reducing animal testing in preclinical safety studies. Retrieved from: https://www.fda.gov/files/newsroom/published/roadmap_to_reducing_animal_testing_in_preclinical_safety_studies.pdf

SB0423_MDVMA_FAVWAMEND.pdf

Uploaded by: Danielle Bauer

Position: FWA



Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA)

Established in 1886, MDVMA is a volunteer, non-profit organization comprised primarily of licensed Maryland Veterinarians.

SB0423 - Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals - Prohibitions and Adoption Requirements (Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

February 13, 2026

MDVMA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

On behalf of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on SB0423. The MDVMA supports the overarching goal of ensuring ethical standards and humane treatment for animals in research settings. Our profession is deeply committed to the oath we have sworn to minimize animal suffering and promote public health, and as veterinarians, we hold in high regard the contributions these animals make to the advancement of society. However, to ensure this legislation is practically applicable and aligns with the highest clinical standards of our profession, we request several critical technical amendments.

Our proposed amendments focus on maintaining professional veterinary standards, ensuring animal welfare through timely intervention, and clarifying the scope of reporting requirements to ensure administrative feasibility.

Currently, Section 15-102(C) requires that dogs or cats at these facilities may be euthanized only by a 'lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital'. While this is a standard method, clinical best practices evolve. We recommend striking the specific method and instead requiring that animals be "euthanized only in accordance with the most current AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals". These guidelines are a recognized gold standard for our profession. By referencing the AVMA guidelines, the law will remain current with scientific advancements without requiring future legislative updates.

Additionally, we request that section 15-102(C)(2) be amended to allow for 'indirect supervision' rather than 'direct supervision'. In clinical and research settings, modern research protocols utilize 'humane end points' which are predetermined criteria that indicate when an animal's pain or distress has reached a level where euthanasia is the most ethical course of action. Requiring direct supervision, which necessitates the veterinarian's presence on the campus, can lead to unnecessary delays in relieving an animal's suffering if a veterinarian is not immediately available. 'Indirect supervision' ensures that a veterinarian is available for consultation and has provided the necessary protocols but allows trained staff to act immediately to prevent prolonged distress. Additionally, while research institutions are required to have a licensed veterinarian, that veterinarian may not be a Maryland-licensed veterinarian. We request that read "under the indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian". This change is vital to maintain the high standard of animal welfare the bill seeks to provide.

Section 15-105(A)(1) requires testing facilities to report the number of each species of animal owned and used. We are uncertain if this would apply to invertebrate animals, fish, flies, rats, etc.

As written, this requirement would be excessively burdensome, as it would necessitate the tracking and reporting of vast numbers of species. Given that the core of this section closely reflects SB0422, which focuses on the welfare and adoption of dogs and cats, we request that the reporting requirements in 15-105(A)(1) be narrowed to specifically “dogs and cats”. This ensures the state receives meaningful data on animals of the highest public concern without creating an unsustainable mandate for research and testing facilities. We further request that Section 15-105 be further amended to ensure conformity with our proposed amendments to SB0422, which are included below:

- We request the annual report prepared by the Secretary and posted on the Department’s website be required to anonymize any identifying information of the research or testing facilities.
- Additionally, to prevent a ‘back channel’ for obtaining this sensitive data, we request that identifying information of these institutions be exempt from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act.
- Require reporting by Fiscal Year, as opposed to January 31 annually, in order to align with already required USDA/APHIS reporting.

We believe these amendments provide technical clarity and professional flexibility necessary to achieve the bill’s intent while upholding the highest standards of veterinary medicine. We urge a favorable with amendments report on SB0423.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Weeman DVM MS
Legislative Committee Chair & Board Member
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association

SB 423 - Harrington - Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Gene Harrington

Position: UNF

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
The Honorable Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair
Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: SB 423, *Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026*

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan & Members of the Committee on Education, Energy, & the Environment:

I write on behalf of the Animal Health Institute (AHI) to respectfully oppose SB 423 and respectfully request an unfavorable report. (I also write as a lifelong resident of Maryland, who currently resides in District 9.) AHI is the U.S. trade association for research-based manufacturers of animal health products – the medicines that keep pets, service animals, and livestock healthy. While we share the goal of incentivizing the use of non-traditional test methods to reduce the need for animal testing, we are concerned about the necessity for and workability of SB 423 and the confusion it would create.

Outlined below are federal requirements mandating the testing of animals in the development and release of animal drugs and biologics that underscore **the animal health industry is unique among industries that use animals for research since the products the industry develops are intended for the very treatment of animals, including pets, service, and agricultural animals.**

From cancer therapies to insulin to lifesaving biologics, research involving animals has played a key role in nearly every major medical advance of the past century. Additionally, treatments for heartworm infestation (a painful and ultimately fatal affliction in dogs), therapies for cholera in hogs, and diagnostic and preventative techniques for brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle are now all available because of animal research.

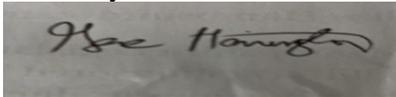
Despite recent federal law and statements from top federal health officials that aspire to dramatically reduce animal testing, there is currently no full replacement for animal models in biomedical research and animal and human drug and biologics development. While AHI supports innovation and the responsible integration of scientifically validated approaches, such as artificial intelligence (AI), organ-on-chip systems, and cell-based assays — when appropriate – these alternative testing methods are not yet capable of fully replicating all the intricacies and unknowns of a full living system. For example, while AI holds great promise and could speed up many aspects of medical research, one of the problems with these technologies is that they largely depend on pulling from existing data. In other words, scientists can't model something they don't know. That is one reason why humane animal research conducted under the strict parameters of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) remains indispensable. Indeed, animal testing facilities are already licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and subject to the data reporting requirements of the AWA.

Moreover, numerous federal regulations and policies in place today under the statutory authority of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act ([21 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.](#)) and Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (VSTA) ([21 U.S.C. § 151-159 et seq.](#)) mandate testing of animals to determine the safety and effectiveness of animal and human drugs and biologics. In addition, regulations and policies adopted under the VSTA mandate that a batch of animal biological products be tested on the target animal for safety before it is released from the manufacturing facility.

In closing, AHI must reiterate that animal health industry is unique among industries that use animals for research. In animal health, laboratory animals are used in the research and development process. But, since the sector is also making products for use in animals, those products must be tested on the target animal. The use of animals is required by the regulatory agencies which approve animal health products. While the animal health industry will continue to work on reducing the need for animal testing, some amount will always be required because we are making products to improve the health and welfare of animals. **As such, we urge you to report SB 423 unfavorably.**

I appreciate your time and consideration of AHI's opposition to SB 423 and urge you to contact me at gharrington@ahi.org or (202) 549-5934 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to read "Gene Harrington".

Gene Harrington
Senior Director, State Affairs
Animal Health Institute

SB 423 - Johns Hopkins - Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Sameer Sidh

Position: UNF

TO: The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
*Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee*

SB423
Unfavorable

FROM: Sameer Sidh
Director, Maryland Government Affairs

DATE: February 13, 2026

RE: SB423 - Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals - Prohibitions and Adoption Requirements

Johns Hopkins opposes **SB 423 – Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals - Prohibitions and Adoption Requirements**. This bill seeks to regulate research and testing facilities that use animals. The bill places restrictions on the use of dogs and cats by these facilities. The bill prohibits the use of what it terms traditional animal test methods where an alternative test method has been approved. This bill requires annual reporting on the number of dogs and cats released to animal rescue organizations, the names of animal rescue organizations receiving animals, and subjects entities to substantial fines for failure to comply with burdensome reporting requirements.

As the leading research institution in the state, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine takes seriously its mission to improve the health of the world by setting the standard of excellence in medical education, research, and clinical care. The use of animals is essential to the success of our mission.

Almost every medical advancement – from COVID-19 vaccines, insulin therapy for diabetes, treatments for cardiovascular diseases, cancer therapy to organ transplants – are the direct result of research performed on animals. Simply put, modern medicine, as we understand it today, would not exist without research performed on animals.

For example, the state of Maryland played a key role in the development of COVID-19 vaccines. Starting five years ago, as COVID-19 initially spread world-wide, institutions, including Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland, and private companies, rapidly ramped up research to develop new ways to treat and prevent COVID-19. The vaccines and therapeutics developed by biomedical researchers during this time were tested on animals before human trials as an integral part of development. Different kinds of institutions and facilities contributed to this effort, leading to widely available COVID-19 vaccines in an unexpectedly short time. These efforts were central to containing the COVID-19 pandemic.

This legislation is being filed in the backdrop of significant reductions in federal research grant activity, particularly from the National Institute of Health (NIH), supporting critical research to pursue a cure for cancer and other diseases. In 2025 alone, the value of Johns Hopkins’ multiyear federal research grant portfolio has declined by a staggering amount exceeding \$500 million. Excluding USAID grants, Johns Hopkins has endured 86 federal grant terminations worth approximately \$66 million. Future federal research funding prospects look bleak as well, with NIH posting 83% fewer new funding opportunities in 2025 as compared to calendar year 2024. Layering a State-level fine structure based on activity

already regulated by the federal government only exacerbates existential threats to research activity at Johns Hopkins and beyond.

Research facilities are subject to extensive oversight by multiple federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health – Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and we are committed to complying with all federal laws that govern the use of animals in research.

The robust existing federal oversight and internal procedures obviate the need to establish a new layer of regulation. Adding another layer of oversight will be confusing for researchers in Maryland and their teams, will mean more time away from their labs and research, and generally make it harder to perform the research that is vital to our mission and provides significant benefit to our patients and to society.

For the reasons stated above, we urge an UNFAVORABLE committee report on **Senate Bill 423**.