



National Association for
**BIOMEDICAL
RESEARCH**

February 12, 2026

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

Dear Chairman Feldman:

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) is writing in opposition to [SB 423](#), Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Regulation.

Maryland Senate Bill 423, the *Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026*, would establish new requirements for research and testing facilities that use dogs and cats. The bill would prohibit devocalization procedures, restrict certain uses of dogs and cats in research and testing, require the consideration or use of validated alternative methods when available, and extend existing animal-adoption requirements to testing facilities. If enacted, the measure would amend provisions of Maryland law governing animal research facilities and take effect October 1, 2026.

For more than 47 years, NABR has been the nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating for sound public policy in support of ethical and essential laboratory animal research and the lifesaving discoveries they produce. NABR's diverse and unified membership includes more than 280 universities, medical and veterinary schools, teaching hospitals, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, patient groups and academic and professional societies that rely on humane and responsible animal research to advance global human and animal health.

Animal research remains vital to our nation's mission to understand disease, discover targeted therapies, alleviate suffering, and improve and increase the quality of life. Biomedical research projects involving animals are governed by a strict structure of laws, regulations and guidelines and continue to yield invaluable data in the process of discovering new therapies to treat, cure and prevent disease. Cancer therapies, immunizations, organ transplants, reconstructive surgeries and other medical innovations have been brought to fruition through research conducted at Maryland based companies and institutions. By increasing compliance costs and regulatory uncertainty for research institutions, SB 423 could discourage biomedical investment and weaken Maryland's competitiveness in the life-sciences economy.

NABR believes this legislation is unnecessarily duplicative of oversight that is already required at the federal level. Under current federal law, research facilities are subject to unannounced USDA inspections and must comply with the Animal Welfare Act as well as the Public Health Service Policy *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Policies and protocols are in place, and strictly adhered to, that address animal housing and care, veterinary medical care, facilities management, training, and occupational health. Furthermore, most research institutions are also accredited by AAALAC International. AAALAC International is the primary accrediting body for animal research programs in the United States and elsewhere.

We support efforts to replace, reduce, and refine the use of animals in drug and vaccine development. However, new drug and vaccine testing technologies to realize this vision at a broad scale and that meet regulatory acceptance are still many years away. We ask the committee to unfavorably report SB 423 so Maryland research facilities can continue to create lifesaving treatments for diseases, discover targeted therapies, alleviate suffering, and improve and increase the quality of life for both humans and animals. Should you or your staff have questions please contact Brandon Morton, NABR's Vice President of Government Affairs via email at bmorton@nabr.org.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Bailey, President