



NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY
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RE: SUPPORT SB 423

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Distinguished Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) and our supporters across Maryland, we respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 423. This bill represents a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to modernizing Maryland's oversight of animal research and testing while strengthening humane protections and improving transparency.

SB 423 (Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026) prioritizes the use of federally approved non-animal alternative methods whenever they are available. When animal testing cannot be avoided, the bill requires facilities to use the fewest animals possible and to minimize pain, suffering, and distress. This approach aligns Maryland law with current scientific advancements and federal validation standards, ensuring that research practices reflect the most modern, ethical, economic, and human-relevant methods available. Importantly, SB 423 does not prohibit legitimate scientific research; rather, it promotes responsible, evidence-based modernization and puts Maryland at the forefront of scientific innovation.

This bill closes regulatory gaps, extends existing oversight to testing facilities, encourages innovation in non-animal methods, and strengthens humane standards without imposing undue burdens on responsible scientific institutions. This legislation represents a balanced, science-forward policy framework that improves animal welfare while maintaining Maryland's commitment to research integrity.

For these reasons, NAVS respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on **SB 423**. We appreciate your consideration and your commitment to responsible policymaking. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information or serve as a resource.

Sincerely,

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