



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](mailto:NAVS@NAVS.ORG)  
WEB: [WWW.NAVS.ORG](http://WWW.NAVS.ORG)

February 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

Environment and Transportation Committee

HB666 Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026

FAVORABLE

**RE: SUPPORT for HB 666 – (Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026)**

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 written testimony in strong support of House Bill 666, the Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026.

Founded in 1929, NAVS is a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to advancing science without harming animals. HB 666 represents a thoughtful and balanced step towards modernizing Maryland's approach to research and testing while maintaining scientific integrity and public accountability.

Importantly, HB 666 does not prohibit legitimate research, but rather propels Maryland's scientific advancement through the requirement of federally approved non-animal testing methods when available. Furthermore, if such methods are unavailable, this bill requires minimal use of animals in research and, to the greatest extent possible, reduce pain and distress. These provisions align Maryland with current scientific advancements and federal validation processes, ensuring that research practices reflect the most up-to-date, humane, economical, and human-relevant methods.

This bill also promotes transparency and accountability through meaningful annual reporting requirements, providing policymakers and the public with aggregated data on animal use and adoption outcomes. This transparency is essential in maintaining public trust in scientific institutions and ensuring responsible stewardship of animals used in such laboratories.

Additionally, HB 666 strengthens humane standards for dogs and cats used in research and testing facilities by extending adoption opportunities to animals who are no longer needed and deemed suitable for rescue. This commonsense measure ensures animals are not treated as disposable once finished being used in experiments and gives these dogs and cats the opportunity to live a new life outside of cold cages. Provisions addressing devocalization and humane euthanasia further reinforce baseline welfare protections consistent with evolving public expectations.

HB 666 offers a pragmatic, science-forward approach by closing regulatory gaps, encouraging innovative non-animal methods, improving oversight, and enhancing humane treatment--without

impeding responsible research. In doing so, this bill positions Maryland as a leader in modern, ethical scientific policy.

For these reasons, NAVS respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on **HB 666**. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meredith Blanchard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "B".

Meredith Blanchard  
Director of Advocacy and Policy  
National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS)  
mblanchard@navs.org