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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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**Testimony in Support of HB 665
Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals -
Adoption and Reporting Requirements**

Good afternoon, Chair Korman, and honorable members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to present **HB 665, Research Facilities and Testing Facilities that Use Animals – Adoption and Reporting Requirements**. This bill seeks to assure compliance with the 2018 legislation “The Beagle Freedom Bill” which required any research facility to provide for the adoption of any cat or dog used in research that is viable when the research is completed.

When the Beagle Freedom Bill passed, the intent was to save as many dogs and cats who were used in research as possible, and deliver them to agencies that would facilitate their adoption. However, the bill lacked any accountability measures and HB 665 is here today to remedy that gap.

Under this bill, entities that are responsible for implementation are defined. Research facilities are those who use live animals for research, education, or experimentation. Testing facilities at corporations, associations, organizations that use animals for testing of any chemical or pharmaceutical product.

The original legislation, from 2018, required a research facility to take reasonable steps to provide for the adoption of a dog or cat by identifying a private placement process or a list of animal rescue organizations that could facilitate the adoption. However, there was no accountability or reporting requirement in the previous law. That issue is remedied in the current bill by requiring each of the defined entities to submit a report to the Secretary of Agriculture an annual report on the number of dogs and cats used by the entity for the 12-month period and the number and names of the rescue organizations to which the animals were released for adoption.

The bill goes further in making the same reporting requirements of any educational institution that engages in using animals for research or testing.

The bill also adds penalties for noncompliance of this bill.

Releasing research animals for adoption is not only an ethical responsibility but also a compassionate acknowledgment of their contributions to science and society. After years of service, these animals deserve the chance to experience safety, care, and love in a home rather than being discarded once their research purpose ends. By supporting adoption programs, institutions demonstrate respect for animal life, uphold humane values, and build trust with the public. Every research animal deserves a life beyond the lab life defined not by experiments, but by kindness and dignity.