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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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**Testimony in Support of HB 666
Research Facilities and Testing Facilities that Use Animals – Prohibitions and Adoption
Requirements (Animal Modernization and Best Practices Act 2026)**

Good afternoon, Chair Korman, and honorable members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to present **HB 666, Animal Modernization and Best Practices Act 2026**. This bill prohibits research and testing facilities in Maryland from using traditional animal testing methods, provided that an alternative nonanimal test method has received approval or the requirement to use a traditional test method is waived. During circumstances where no non-animal alternatives are available, the smallest number of animals possible should be used to minimize pain and suffering.

Animal testing frequently fails to produce relevant and life-saving research. According to the NIH, 90% of drugs that pass animal preclinical stages fail when they reach human trials. Species differences contribute highly to these translational failures. Even when new drugs that pass animal tests or limited human trials go to market, they have a severe problem of post approval risk. These risks are adverse reactions that could lead to hospitalization, disability, or death. Milrinone, Fialuridine, Zomepirac Sodium, and Nomifensine are all drugs that appeared safe in animal trials yet caused serious harm to users. At the same time, it is impossible to guess how many potentially useful drugs have been abandoned because animal testing falsely suggested toxicity.

Importantly, we already have better methods. Epidemiological studies, human tissue models, and organ and cell cultures, have proven invaluable in modern drug and medical research. These methods are especially important in conditions that cannot be recreated in animals. One example of this is chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIPD) which can cause people to experience symptoms in their arms and legs making it hard for them to do daily activities.

Bringing a drug to market already requires decades of research and millions of dollars of financial investment. Continuing to rely on animal testing, which is costly, and time-intensive is both wasteful and negligent. For example, non-human primates can cost around tens of thousands per animal in addition to the cost of maintaining the FDA health standards for the animals. In contrast, entire organ system chips can cost as little as a few thousand.

Alternative methods can reduce development time and cost by years and millions of dollars.

HB666 also addresses transparency within current testing and research frameworks, which lack consistent requirements for documenting and reporting animal use. This bill allows Maryland to better gauge the use of alternative testing methods in facilities across the state.

HB666 represents the next natural progression in moving Maryland towards being a national biotech leader. We are currently playing catch-up with states like Virginia and Massachusetts in the adoption of alternative test methods. Embracing efficient, safer, and economical research methods is only natural. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request your favorable report.