

March 30, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
The Honorable Michele Guyton, Vice Chair
Committee on Environment and Transportation
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: SB 423, *Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026/Unfavorable Report*

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton & Members of the Committee on Environment & Transportation:

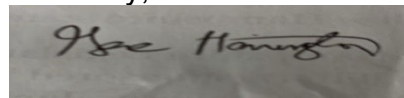
I write on behalf of the Animal Health Institute (AHI) to respectfully oppose SB 423 and request an unfavorable report. (I also write as a lifelong resident of Maryland, who currently resides in District 9A.) AHI is the U.S. trade association for research-based manufacturers of animal health products – the medicines that keep pets, service animals, and livestock healthy.

While SB 423 is well-intended, it overlooks the underlying point of [Anderson Cooper's recent 60 Minutes](#) segment about the importance and benefits of animal testing and research in the development of human and animal drugs, specifically using dogs in studying Alzheimer's and ways to treat the devastating disease in both humans and canines. **It would have been impossible to have developed the Alzheimer's drug for dogs discussed at the end of the segment without doing animal research and testing.** This Alzheimer's product for dogs has the potential to give pet owners additional time with their dogs and would not be possible without clinical studies involving dogs. **Indeed, AHI is not aware of a single animal drug or vaccine that has been developed or commercialized exclusively through non-animal testing methods, without any form of animal testing in preclinical development.**

In closing, AHI must reiterate that animal health industry is unique among industries that use animals for research. Since the sector is making products for use in animals, those products must be tested on the target animal. Moreover, the use of animals is required by the regulatory agencies which approve animal health products. While the animal health industry will continue to work on reducing the need for animal testing, some amount will always be required because we are making products to improve the health and welfare of animals. **As such, we urge you to report SB 423 unfavorably because it would simply create unnecessary confusion.**

I appreciate your time and consideration of AHI's opposition to SB 423 and urge you to contact me at gharrington@ahi.org or (202) 549-5934 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Gene Harrington".

Gene Harrington
Senior Director, State Affairs

Animal Health Institute