

Testimony in Support of HB 665 Animal Testing Repo

Uploaded by: Bonnie Cullison

Position: FAV

BONNIE CULLISON
Legislative District 19
Montgomery County

Vice Chair, Health Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Insurance

Pharmaceuticals

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3883
800-492-7122 Ext. 3883
Bonnie.Cullison@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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.

HB 665_Humane VMA_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Carrie Waters

Position: FAV



Formerly called the Humane
Society of the United States

Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance

1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100

humaneworld.org/HumaneVMA

February 18, 2026

Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **Veterinary Support for HB 665** Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals -
Adoption and Reporting Requirements

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton and members of the committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance (HumaneVMA), a national organization of more than 8,000 veterinary professional members (including 60 Maryland veterinarians) with a focus on the health and welfare of all animals, including those used in research. We strongly support HB 665.

HB 665 strengthens protections for dogs and cats used in research. It reinforces compliance with Maryland's 2018 Beagle Bill by requiring annual reporting on the number of animals used and adopted. Additionally, the bill enhances transparency by requiring more comprehensive reporting on animal use in Maryland facilities, providing the public with a clearer understanding of research practices in the state. This legislation expands animal research reporting and adoption requirements to include testing facilities and specifies animal research facilities' annual reporting requirements and subsequent fines for violations of these requirements.

HB 665 improves transparency and provides greater accountability in animal research in Maryland. The HumaneVMA respectfully encourages the House Environment and Transportation Committee to support HB 665.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie B. Waters".

Carrie B. Waters, DVM, PhD, JD, DACVIM
Maryland State Representative
Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance (HumaneVMA)

HB665 FAV Schaeffer American Anti-Vivisection Soci

Uploaded by: Crystal Schaeffer

Position: FAV



801 Old York Road
Suite 204
Jenkintown, PA 19046-1611
Phone: 215.887.0816
Fax: 215.887.2088
Web: www.aavs.org

Bill: HB 665

Committee: House Environment and Transportation

Position: FAVORABLE

Date: February 16, 2026

Dear Chairman Korman,

On behalf of our members and supporters, including those in Maryland, thank you for allowing our organization to comment on HB 665. Founded in 1883, the American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS) is the first non-profit animal advocacy and educational organization in the United States dedicated to ending the use of animals in research, testing, and education by promoting better, more modern test methods.

AAVS supports HB 665 because it will reduce animal suffering and help Maryland continue its leadership in scientific research by ensuring the use of newer, more accurate test methods in place of painful and unnecessary animal tests.

Animal Testing Often Fails; Better Alternatives Exist

One of the biggest problems with animal testing is that it often provides unreliable results. Approximately 90% of drugs that seem safe in animal tests fail during human trials. In many cases, this happens because animal tests do not show the real risks or benefits to humans.

Fortunately, newer, non-animal test methods exist that are more reliable because they are based on human biology instead of animals. In fact, Maryland has been leading the way in this field since 2023, when it established the Human-Relevant Research Fund, the first law of its kind in the country, which helps scientists develop these modern, non-animal test methods.

Making Sure Non-Animal Test Methods Are Used Whenever Possible

Right now, research facilities are allowed to use animals even when a non-animal test method has been approved by government agencies. HB 665 will fix this by requiring all research facilities in Maryland to use non-animal test methods when they are approved. This change will save countless animals from suffering and help Maryland continue its path toward a future of better, more humane science.

Reducing Animal Suffering in Testing

In cases where a research facility is still permitted to use an animal test method, HB 665 will ensure that the facility uses the fewest number of animals possible and reduces their pain, suffering, and stress. This is a common sense provision that reflects Maryland's commitment to both science and animal welfare. By passing this bill, Maryland will set an example for other states and prove that science and compassion can go hand in hand.

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

HB 665 will require all research facilities in Maryland to report important information about their testing each year. They will have to share a description of each animal test methods used and why; the number and species used; and types and numbers of non-animal methods used.

This information will be made available to the public, ensuring that research facilities will be held accountable. This type of transparency is important because it will help Maryland's citizens see progress being made in reducing animal testing, and it will encourage more research facilities to choose non-animal methods.

Conclusion

HB 665 is a major step forward for Maryland. It will reduce animal suffering, strengthen Maryland's leadership in modern science, and make research facilities more transparent. We strongly urge the Committee to provide a favorable report on HB 665. Thank you for your time and for considering this important bill.

Sincerely,

Crystal Schaeffer
AAVS Outreach Director
215-887-0816 • cschaeffer@aavs.org
801 Old York Rd., #204
Jenkintown, PA 19046

HB0665 Lawrence Florin Hesperos Inc FAV

Uploaded by: Lawrence Florin

Position: FAV

House Bill 665

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
DATE: February 15, 2026
FROM: Caroline A. Griffin, Esquire
RE: **HB 665 – Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals
– Adoption and Reporting Requirements**

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chairman Korman and Vice-Chair Guyton, my name is Caroline A. Griffin; I am an attorney and reside in Baltimore. I am the Chair of the **Maryland Spay Neuter Advisory Board**. I am the co-founder of the non-profit **Show Your Soft Side, Inc. (SYSS)**, a national anti-cruelty campaign that has photographed professional athletes and celebrities nationwide to demonstrate that compassion to animals is a strength. SYSS supports HB 665, sometimes referred to as The Beagle Bill 2.0.

This bill fulfills the original intent of the Humane Adoption of Companion Animals Used in Research Act of 2018 (Beagle Bill), by requiring research and testing facilities to disclose the number of dogs and cats owned, used, and released to animal rescue organizations to the Department of Agriculture on an annual basis. Colleges and universities would also be required to submit the results of USDA inspections to the General Assembly. This limited and reasonable requirement is consistent with a growing national trend of requiring greater transparency in the use of animals in research and testing.

In 2018, SYSS ambassador Torrey Smith, a former Raven and two-time Superbowl Champion, agreed to be photographed with a former research beagle for a billboard campaign with the simple message, “We Support the Beagle Bill” (image attached). In over 250 photo shoots, this was the first and only time that SYSS changed its trademarked campaign tagline of *Only a Punk Would Hurt a Cat or Dog*.

The disclosure requirements of HB 665 are reasonable and analogous to the requirements that the Supreme Court of Maryland impose on all lawyers in the state. Each year, lawyers must disclose their *pro bono* hours, as well as their financial contributions to organizations providing such services. Lawyers protested this rule, arguing burden and invasion of privacy. Yet, this annual reporting requirement has become a rote exercise for all of us, as we live in a world of greater transparency.

I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline A. Griffin
cag@carolineagriffin.com

Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Us

Uploaded by: Lisa Radov

Position: FAV



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 18, 2026

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Lisa Radov, President and Chair, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.

Re: Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Adoption and Reporting Requirements – HB 665 -Support

Chair Korman, Vice- Chair Guyton, members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chair of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee vote favorably for Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Adoption and Reporting Requirements – HB 665.

HB 665 updates the widely supported “Beagle Bill,” also known as the Beagle Freedom Act, which Maryland legislators overwhelmingly passed in 2018. The purpose of that law was to allow healthy dogs and cats used in research—after they had served their purpose—to be adopted into loving homes. However, the original legislation lacked mechanisms to ensure that its goals were being consistently and effectively carried out.

This bill addresses that gap by requiring research and testing facilities to report annually to the Department of Agriculture the number of dogs and cats used in experiments and the number adopted after research concludes. Colleges and universities would also be required to submit the results of federal inspections to the General Assembly.

Specifically, the bill holds institutions that conduct research on dogs and cats accountable by requiring them to disclose the number of animals they own and use, the number released to animal rescue organizations after testing, and the names of those organizations. Information regarding compliance with the law would be made publicly available on the Department of Agriculture’s website. In addition, any school or institution of higher education conducting animal research must submit an annual report to the General Assembly detailing inspection results by December 31.

The goal of this legislation is to ensure that research institutions, testing facilities, and institutions of higher education are doing everything possible to allow healthy dogs and cats—who have already endured significant suffering—to be placed into safe, loving homes.

In closing, I would like to thank Delegate Cullison for sponsoring HB 665 and ask the committee to give this bill a favorable report.

HB 665_FAV_Humane_World_for_Animals.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Hilley

Position: FAV



Formerly called the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International

February 18, 2026

**Environment and Transportation Committee
HB 665- Beagle Bill 2.0
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of Humane World for Animals, formerly called the Humane Society of the United States, and our Maryland members and supporters urging a favorable report of HB 665, *Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Adoption and Reporting Requirements* (Beagle Bill 2.0). This important legislation creates a requirement that animal research and testing facilities in the state annually report to the Secretary of Agriculture how many dogs and cats they use and how many are provided the chance of adoption after they are no longer needed for experiments. This legislation also creates a requirement for institutions of higher education to annually report the results of their federal inspections to the Maryland General Assembly.

The fiscal note for HB 665 reflected that it was “expected to be implemented with existing resources” and that it is “not expected to significantly affect local government finances.”

HB 665 would be a simple update to the original Beagle Bill, which unanimously passed the legislature in 2018 and is now current law.¹ Research and testing facilities are required by law to offer dogs and cats that are no longer needed for research and testing purposes to animal rescue organizations or facilitate the adoption of these animals via a private, internal adoption program. While current law provides dogs and cats with this second chance to live as beloved pets, it does not require transparency of whether research and testing facilities are compliant. This means that facilities can state that they are adopting out eligible animals but are not currently responsible for validating those claims. According to the most recent data available from the United States Department of Agriculture, approximately 90 dogs and 300 cats were used in Maryland research and testing facilities in 2024 that would be required to comply with this legislation. However, the percentage of those animals that were adopted out is unknown.

HB 665 would help ensure that the maximum number of dogs and cats suitable for adoption are being given that chance by creating accountability through reporting very basic information. Requiring research and testing facilities to be accountable for reporting how many adoptions they facilitate will incentivize them to adopt out as many eligible animals as possible, which is what the current law intends. If facilities are already complying with current law, then it should be very easy for them to record and report this basic data once per year. Dogs and cats used for research and testing in our state deserve this minimal extra effort.

¹ Md. Code Ann., Agriculture § 15-101 (2018).

This commonsense legislation is consistent with laws passed in other states. Maryland and 16 other states have decided that dogs and cats in laboratories deserve an opportunity to live the remainder of their lives in loving homes. Now we are calling on Maryland legislators to ensure this law has been effective. I

This legislation would also increase accountability for our institutions of higher education by requiring them to report to the Maryland General Assembly the results of their federal inspections as required under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).² These inspections are performed to ensure that facilities using animals in experiments comply with the minimum standards of the federal AWA and corresponding regulations. HB 665 will increase accountability for our taxpayer-funded universities and colleges' use of animals in experiments on the state level.

With these common sense, straightforward reporting requirements, passage of HB 665 will help increase transparency and accountability for research and testing facilities that use animals in experiments in our state. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Humane World for Animals urges a favorable report on HB 665.

Please reach out to Stacey Volodin, (svolodin@humaneworld.org) with any questions or additional information.

Thank you,

Stacey Volodin
Maryland State Director
Humane World for Animals

Mary Hilley
Specialist, Animal Research Issues
Humane World for Animals

² Animal Welfare Act, 21 U.S.C. §2146

HB0665 research facilities and testing facilities

Uploaded by: Patty Crankshaw-Quimby

Position: FAV



Maryland's Association of Animal Care and Control Agencies and Humane Societies

**PO Box 1143
Easton, Maryland 21601**

**HB0665: Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Adoption and Reporting Requirements
Maryland House of Delegates Environment and Transportation Committee**

February 12, 2026

Dear Honorable Chairman Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and members of the committee:

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization of animal control agencies and humane societies unanimously supports and encourages a favorable and speedy report on HB0665.

There are estimated to be hundreds of dogs and cats used in research facilities within Maryland each year. This bill, an extension of the Beagle Freedom Bill passed by legislature in 2016 adds requirements for reporting and planning for the next phase in these animals' lives. This common-sense bill requires laboratories and research facilities to provide a basic report on the number of dogs and cats used in testing in a calendar year and provide a plan for any dogs or cats which a veterinarian has cleared. Our organization supports these requirements and believes requiring research and testing facilities to be accountable for reporting how many adoptions they facilitate- comparable to the requirements of animal shelters in Maryland- will incentivize them to adopt as many eligible animals as possible. Dogs and cats used for research and testing in our state should have the same opportunities of finding homes as animals within our shelters.

The passing of HB0665 is a common-sense extension of the already present law and allows Maryland to be a leading example on this issue. We support the bill and ask the committee for a favorable and speedy report on HB0665.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, CAWA

Executive Director/Chief Animal Control Officer: Talbot Humane/ Talbot County Animal Control

President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland

HB0665_MDVMA_FAVWAMEND.pdf

Uploaded by: Danielle Bauer

Position: FWA



Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA)

Established in 1886, MDVMA is a volunteer, non-profit organization comprised primarily of licensed Maryland Veterinarians.

HBO665 - Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals - Adoption and Reporting Requirements

Committee: Environment and Transportation

February 16, 2026

MDVMA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

On behalf of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, we offer the following Favorable with Amendments testimony on HBO665. We support the core mission of HBO665, which aims to formalize and expand the adoption process for dogs and cats used in research and testing facilities. Our profession is deeply committed to the oath we have sworn to minimize animal suffering and promote public health, and as veterinarians, we hold in high regard the contributions these animals make to the advancement of society. We believe that research institutions already work diligently to make animals available for adoption whenever practicable, and we endorse a legislative framework that supports these well-intentioned efforts to ensure as many animals as possible find loving, permanent homes.

To ensure this legislation achieves its goals while maintaining a secure environment for all involved, we suggest a few minor refinements to the reporting requirements in Section 15-103. We are concerned that making specific private research or testing facility names public via the Secretary's report could lead to protestors targeting these facilities, which creates an unsafe environment for those performing vital scientific work. We request the annual report prepared by the Secretary and posted on the Department's website be required to anonymize any identifying information of the research or testing facilities. Our primary concern is the welfare of employees at these institutions. Additionally, to prevent a 'back channel' for obtaining this sensitive data, we request that identifying information of these institutions be exempt from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. If the goal is transparency regarding the number of animals used and adopted, that can be achieved through aggregated, anonymous data without putting specific individuals or facilities at risk. Finally, we would request that the reporting requirement be done by "fiscal year", rather than January 31 annually, in order to align with already required USDA/APHIS reporting.

As for enforcement, this identifying information would of course remain available to the Department. They may impose the fine associated with non-compliance.

With these small adjustments, we can ensure that HBO665 achieves its noble purpose of finding permanent homes for as many animals as possible while maintaining the necessary security and privacy of the institutions. We want this bill to succeed, and we believe these small adjustments will provide the necessary safeguards to allow this important work for the benefit of our society to continue without interruption.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Weeman DVM MS
Legislative Committee Chair & Board Member
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association

MARYLAND VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 387 | Cordova, MD 21625 | Ph: (410) 305-7083 | danielle@MDVMA.org | MDVMA.org

NABR MD HB665 FINAL 2.12.26.pdf

Uploaded by: Brandon Morton

Position: UNF



February 12, 2026

The Honorable Delegate Marc Korman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Korman:

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) is writing in opposition to [HB 665](#), Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Adoption and Reporting Requirements.

This bill proposes to require research facilities to establish an adoption program for retired dogs and cats used in research through a private placement process or a collaborative agreement with a listed “animal rescue organization.” In addition, it would require research and testing facilities to submit to the Department of Agriculture certain information regarding dogs and cats on or before a certain date each year; and require a school or an institution of higher education that uses animals for certain purposes to submit a report on the results of certain inspections to the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year.

For more than 47 years, NABR has been the nation’s only organization solely dedicated to advocating for sound public policy in support of ethical and essential laboratory animal research and the lifesaving discoveries they produce. NABR’s diverse and unified membership includes more than 280 universities, medical and veterinary schools, teaching hospitals, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, patient groups and academic and professional societies that rely on humane and responsible animal research to advance global human and animal health.

Animal research remains vital to our nation’s mission to understand disease, discover targeted therapies, alleviate suffering, and improve and increase the quality of life. Biomedical research projects involving animals are governed by a strict structure of laws, regulations and guidelines and continue to yield invaluable data in the process of discovering new therapies to treat, cure and prevent disease.

This legislation is superfluous as biomedical research facilities involving animals are already governed by a strict structure of laws, regulations and guidelines and continue to yield invaluable data in the process of discovering new therapies to treat, cure and prevent disease. As written, this bill would add additional, unnecessary administrative burden to researchers and institutions in the state of Maryland. Not only that, but this legislation could also literally fine scientists conducting basic research in the state of Maryland.

We urge the committee to unfavorably report HB 665, so Maryland research facilities can continue to create lifesaving treatments for diseases, discover targeted therapies, alleviate suffering, and improve and increase the quality of life for both humans and animals. Should you or your staff have questions please contact Brandon Morton, NABR’s Vice President of Government Affairs via email at bmorton@nabr.org.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Bailey
President

HB665 - Johns Hopkins - Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Sameer Sidh

Position: UNF

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Sameer Sidh
Director, Maryland Government Affairs

HB665
Unfavorable

DATE: February 16, 2026

RE: HB665 - Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals - Adoption and Reporting Requirements

Johns Hopkins opposes **HB665 Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals - Adoption and Reporting Requirements**. This bill requires research and testing facilities in the state to report annually to the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture. The report must state the number of dogs or cats owned and used by the facility and the number of dogs or cats released to animal rescue organizations. The Department will then aggregate this data for an annual, public report. This bill requires institutions of higher education that use animals in research or testing to report to the General Assembly on the results of any inspection by the Department of Agriculture, including any violations, and be subject to substantial fines for violations of federal inspections.

As the leading research institution in the state, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine takes seriously its mission to improve the health of the world by setting the standard of excellence in medical education, research, and clinical care. The use of animals is essential to the success of our mission.

Almost every medical advancement – from COVID-19 vaccines, insulin therapy for diabetes, treatments for cardiovascular diseases, cancer therapy to organ transplants – are the direct result of research performed on animals. Simply put, modern medicine, as we understand it today, would not exist without research performed on animals.

For example, The State of Maryland played a key role in the development of COVID-19 vaccines. Beginning five years ago, as COVID-19 initially spread world-wide, institutions, including Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland, and private companies, rapidly ramped up research to develop new ways to treat and prevent COVID-19. The vaccines and therapeutics developed by biomedical researchers during this time were tested on animals before human trials as an integral part of development. Different kinds of institutions and facilities contributed to this effort, leading to widely available COVID-19 vaccines in an unexpectedly short time. These efforts were central to containing the COVID-19 pandemic.

This legislation is being filed in the backdrop of significant reductions in federal research grant activity, particularly from the National Institute of Health (NIH), supporting critical research to pursue a cure for cancer and other diseases. In 2025 alone, the value of Johns Hopkins' multiyear federal research grant portfolio has declined by a staggering amount exceeding \$500 million. Excluding USAID grants, Johns Hopkins has endured 86 federal grant terminations worth approximately \$66 million. Future federal research funding prospects look bleak as well, with NIH posting 83% fewer new funding opportunities in 2025 as compared to calendar year 2024. Layering a State-level fine structure based on activity already regulated by the federal government only exacerbates existential threats to research activity at Johns Hopkins and beyond.

Research facilities are subject to extensive oversight by multiple federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health – Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The reports generated from that oversight are publicly available. As such, this bill’s reporting requirements are unnecessary and duplicative of existing federal regulations.

For the reasons stated above, we urge an UNFAVORABLE committee report on **House Bill 665**.