



Formerly called the Humane  
Society of the United States

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**February 27, 2026**

**Finance Committee**

**SB 585 - Human-Relevant Research Fund-Collection of Contributions-Responsible Entity  
FAVORABLE**

Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and members of the Senate Finance 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 SB 585. Humane World for Animals was a lead advocate for the 2023 legislation (HB 626/ SB 560) that created the Human-Relevant Research Fund to create dedicated funding for scientific research that is based on human biology. The passage of this law set Maryland apart as a leader in prioritizing development and use of modern biotechnology.

SB 585 is a simple fix to that 2023 law that changes the agency responsible for collecting the funds from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). This legislative change was requested by MDH and we appreciate Secretary Atticks' willingness to have MDA take on this additional responsibility.

The 2023 law had strong bipartisan support and received favorable testimony from leading biotechnology companies developing and using non-animal approaches in Maryland and across the country including Emulate, Organovo Inc., MatTek Life Sciences, Institute for In Vitro Sciences, Inc., Propagenix Inc., and Hesperos, Inc.

Humane World for Animals urges a favorable report on SB 585 to ensure the successful implementation of the Human-Relevant Research Fund.

Thank you,

**Stacey Volodin**

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