

Advocating for sound
public policy to support
responsible animal
research since 1979

FROM HERE TO OUR WORLD



National Association *for*
BIOMEDICAL
RESEARCH

2025 – 2026
ANNUAL
REPORT



■ Leading in the education of legislators on the importance of animal research for the continuation of critical medical advancements.



From the President



Dear Members and Colleagues,

Thank you for your continued engagement and support of the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR).

For nearly five decades, NABR has served as the unified voice of the biomedical research community, working to ensure that sound public policy supports the ethical and responsible use of animals in research.

As we reflect on the past year, it is clear that the policy landscape surrounding biomedical research continues to evolve rapidly. Legislative proposals, regulatory changes, and growing public scrutiny continue to underscore the importance of a strong, coordinated voice representing the research community in Washington, D.C.

NABR remains focused on advancing policies that protect and support ethical, responsible, and scientifically necessary animal research and testing. Throughout 2025–2026, we worked closely with our members and partners to monitor federal and state developments, respond to emerging legislative and regulatory challenges, and advocate for policies that preserve the ability to conduct life-saving and life-improving research.

In 2025–2026, NABR secured key advocacy victories to protect biomedical research. NABR helped prevent a proposed CITES trade suspension on Cambodian long-tailed macaques, preserving access to a critical research model, and continued leading efforts to address the nonhuman primate supply crisis. NABR also worked with Congress and federal agencies to defend science-based research policies

and oppose efforts that would restrict essential animal research.

At the same time, NABR continued to prioritize member engagement and communication. Through timely legislative alerts, policy updates, coalition activities, and advocacy opportunities, we remain committed to providing our members with the information and tools needed to navigate an increasingly complex policy environment.

Our collective strength comes from our shared commitment to science, collaboration, and responsible research practices. By working together and aligning common priorities, we can continue to reinforce the essential role biomedical research plays in advancing medical innovation and improving both human and animal health.

Your participation, expertise, and leadership remain central to this mission. We deeply appreciate your continued commitment to advancing science while upholding the highest standards of animal care and welfare.

We look forward to continuing this important work together in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew R. Bailey".

Matthew R. Bailey
President
National Association for Biomedical Research

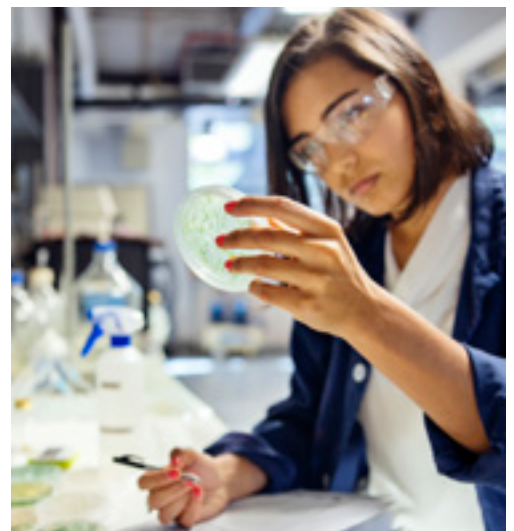
Our Purpose

is Driven by Our Mission

Advocating for sound public policy on the use of animals in biomedical research is the cornerstone of NABR's mission. NABR's success is built on years of unflagging efforts to educate lawmakers on the need for animals in research, and the crippling effect that eliminating animal research would have on future medical discoveries.

NABR has urged and secured critical changes to proposed Animal Welfare Act (AWA) amendments to preserve animal welfare while providing a consistent and reasonable operating framework for research institutions. The organization led the research community's participation in developing new regulations that followed the AWA amendments, prompting the rejection of rigid requirements that lacked scientific basis. These efforts resulted in the adoption of performance-based standards that balance research needs with animal welfare and prevented costly, unnecessary regulatory burdens on research institutions.

NABR has also intervened in pivotal court battles—some that threatened to invalidate animal welfare standards supported by the research community, and others that sought to establish legal rights for animals. Through its leadership, NABR helped secure passage of the Animal Enterprise Protection Act of 1992 (AETA), making it a federal crime to



History

Founded in 1979 in response to the emerging anti-laboratory animal movement, the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) coordinates a strong, effective alliance representing the research community on key legislative and regulatory matters. Its membership comprises public and private universities, medical and veterinary schools, teaching hospitals, voluntary health agencies, professional societies, pharmaceutical companies, and other animal research-related firms. Today, NABR plays a central role in ensuring that new federal laws meet animal welfare and research needs.

Mission

NABR works to protect the ability to use animals in ethical and responsible research that will one day benefit the health of people and animals. For nearly five decades, NABR has provided a unified voice for the scientific community on legislative and regulatory matters affecting laboratory animal research.

interfere with animal research facilities. NABR has worked to stop dozens of unnecessary and unsound legislative proposals that would have hindered biomedical research. In 2006, NABR helped secure passage of the AETA, signed into law that year.

SAFEGUARDING ANIMAL RESEARCH

A major focus today is safeguarding the continuity of animal research, especially involving species essential for vaccine development, infectious disease research, oncology, and neurological studies. NABR actively responds to domestic and international decisions that threaten research continuity—such as endangered species classifications, trade suspensions, or import restrictions.

NABR also works to counter inaccurate, non-scientific claims that could lead to restrictive or harmful policy decisions. Through fact-based analysis, public statements, and ongoing engagement with policymakers, NABR challenges misinformation that could undermine biomedical research or slow the development of new treatments.

Recent examples include NABR's efforts related to the international trade status of long-tailed macaques, where the organization advocated for fair, science-based assessments to ensure reliable access to research animals.



Founded in 1979, the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) provides a unified voice for the scientific community on legislative and regulatory matters affecting laboratory animal research. NABR works to safeguard the future of biomedical research that involves the responsible, humane, and ethical use of animals.

NABR advocates on behalf of its members at all levels of the federal government: Congress, the USDA, NIH, FDA, CDC, and the White House. NABR communicates the essential role of animals in research by encouraging supportive legislation, providing comments on pending proposals, presenting testimony at congressional hearings, and serving as an information source for congressional staff and constituents.

NABR members are in good company. Almost every major pharmaceutical company, 80% of medical schools, nearly every veterinary medical school, and many research universities in the U.S. are NABR members.

NABR'S SUCCESS

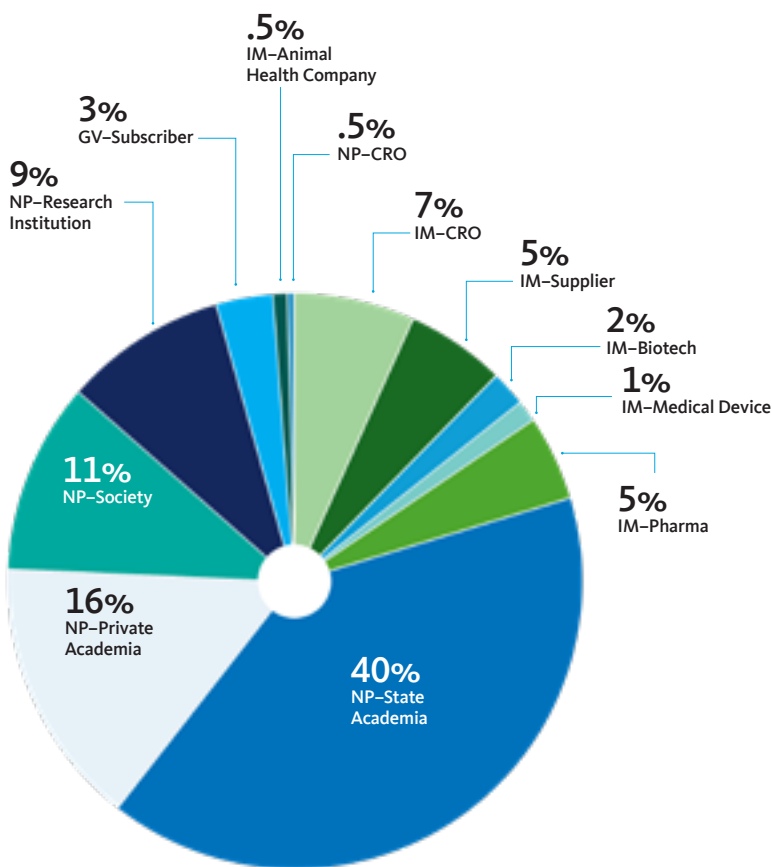
NABR was instrumental in securing the passage of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, a federal law providing greater protection for members of the biomedical research community and their families against intimidation and harassment by animal rights extremists. In addition, NABR has actively organized stakeholder coalitions in states across the country to combat anti-animal research and anti-science legislation. Furthermore, NABR led the industry effort to ensure that nonhuman primate models continue to be available for life-saving biomedical research. NABR closely monitors both federal and state legislation and provides timely alerts to our members and subscribers when action is needed.

NABR Membership

OUR MEMBERS

With over 280 member organizations nationally, NABR serves a variety of needs for the scientific community. Our members include public and private universities, medical and veterinary schools, teaching hospitals, voluntary health agencies, professional societies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, and other animal research-related firms.

NP = Nonprofit
IM = Industry Member
GV = Government
CRO = Contract Research Organization



Outreach

Crisis Management Support

For nearly five decades, NABR has provided its members and subscribers with crisis planning and coordination advice, and emergency support.

Insightful Analysis

A thorough analysis of regulatory and legislative proposals, legal decisions, and other items of consequence to the biomedical research community.

Webinars and Training Opportunities

Quarterly webinars, a host of other resources and educational opportunities, plus on-demand viewing for our members.

Publications

- NABR Crisis Management Guide
- NABR Update
- NABR Alerts
- Other publications

Members Only Website

Contains recordings of NABR webinars, archives of the NABR Update, legislative bill summaries, FOIA and state open records law resources, tools and tips for communicating with Congress, a state laws database and a member resource center containing a broad array of useful fact sheets, publications, and research tools.

Ranking of Open Records Laws

A summary and analysis of the open records laws of every state and the District of Columbia as they relate to biomedical research records. Each state's law is assigned a score of up to five stars to highlight those states with open records laws most protective of biomedical research records, as well as the states with the most room for improvement.

Federal Legislative Issues

The greatest threat to animal research in 2025–2026 is not a single bill, but a convergence of political interference in science funding, restrictions on access to essential research animals, and increasing efforts to replace scientifically justified animal studies before validated alternatives are available. Together, these developments threaten the United States' leadership in biomedical innovation.

Federal Efforts to Restrict or Eliminate Animal Research

From NABR's perspective, the largest federal threats to animal research during 2025–2026 fall into five major categories. Some are legislative, while others involve regulatory and administrative changes that could have an even broader impact on biomedical research.

1.

Politicization of Federal Research Funding (OMB Proposed Rule)

This is arguably the most significant threat because it affects all federally funded research, including animal research.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has proposed a new rule for the Regulation of Federal Financial Assistance that would require political appointees to review discretionary research awards for consistency with administration priorities and avoid routinely deferring to peer review by scientific experts. The proposal would also expand authority to terminate grants and impose additional restrictions on federally funded research.

Why it matters for animal research:

- Scientific merit could become secondary to political considerations.
- Grants involving animals could face increased scrutiny regardless of scientific value.
- Long-term biomedical research planning becomes more difficult if awards can be revisited or terminated.
- Federally funded researchers could lose access to critical animal models if key labs, colonies or suppliers are located in politically-designated countries of concern.

2.

Restrictions on Nonhuman Primate Research (PRIMATE Act)

The PRIMATE Act would prohibit the importation of nonhuman primates into the United States for research purposes. The legislation was introduced in April 2026 and targets the nation's already strained nonhuman primate (NHP) resources.

Why it matters:

- Long-tailed macaques remain essential for many vaccines, monoclonal antibodies, infectious disease studies, and cell and gene therapies.
- The United States already faces severe primate shortages following China's export restrictions.
- A complete import ban would further reduce research capacity and likely shift research overseas.

2025–
2026 at
a Glance

40

More than 40 federal
and state legislative
proposals tracked

15

Activity spanning
15+ states

Reach

Major international
success: helping
prevent a proposed
CITES trade
suspension on
Cambodian long-
tailed macaques

3.

Growing Congressional Restrictions on Dog and Cat Research

Congress has increasingly targeted research involving dogs and cats through appropriations riders, NDAA provisions, and amendments.

Examples include:

- NIH restrictions on certain dog and cat studies.
- DOD reporting requirements and limitations on painful dog and cat research.
- Amendments seeking to prohibit FDA guidance recommending dog studies.
- USDA and NIFA funding restrictions involving dogs and cats.

Why it matters:

- Creates species-specific restrictions driven by politics rather than scientific necessity.
- Encourages activists to pursue additional species-based prohibitions.
- Undermines agency scientists' ability to determine appropriate models.

4.

Federal Shift Toward “Replacement-First” Policies

Both NIH and FDA have launched major initiatives to accelerate development and use of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), including NIH's \$150 million

Complement-ARIE initiative. While these programs are intended to complement animal research, activists are using them to argue for rapid elimination of animal studies.

Why it matters:

- Pressure may grow to replace animal studies before alternatives are fully validated.
- Funding priorities could increasingly favor non-animal approaches.
- Regulatory agencies could face political pressure to reduce animal use irrespective of scientific readiness.
- Many NAMs still depend on animal-derived materials, making “replacement” more complicated than the label suggests.

Importantly, NIH has repeatedly stated that animal models will continue to be supported when scientifically justified.

5.

Funding Instability Across Federal Science Agencies

Changes in grantmaking practices at NIH, NSF, EPA, and other federal science agencies—including funding delays, grant terminations, and reduced numbers of new awards—have created significant uncertainty across the biomedical and scientific research enterprise.

Why it matters:

- Animal research is expensive and often depends on long-term infrastructure.
- Funding disruptions disproportionately affect animal colonies, specialized facilities, and workforce retention.
- Reduced grant success rates can lead institutions to scale back animal research programs.

Top Threat Ranking (2025–2026)

Rank	Threat	Potential Impact
1	OMB grantmaking rule / political control of science	System-wide threat to all federally funded animal research
2	PRIMATE Act and NHP supply restrictions	Direct threat to vaccine and infectious disease research
3	Congressional dog and cat research restrictions	Growing precedent for species-specific prohibitions
4	Replacement-first NAMs policies	Long-term pressure to phase out animal studies before alternatives are validated
5	Federal scientific funding instability and grant disruptions . .	Reduces research capacity and institutional investment

State Legislative Issues

(2025–2026) Summary

NABR tracked a growing number of state-level proposals aimed at restricting animal research, expanding reporting requirements, mandating adoption programs, creating funding mechanisms for alternative methods, and limiting specific research activities.

Major Trends

Increased Transparency and Reporting Requirements

Several states pursued legislation requiring institutions to publicly disclose animal use, research activities, and adoption outcomes:

- Ohio HB 803
- Maryland SB 422/HB 665 companion
- Colorado SB 085
- Wisconsin SB 414
- New York NHP reporting legislation

Mandatory Adoption and Retirement Programs

A significant number of bills required research facilities to offer animals for adoption or transfer before euthanasia can be considered:

- Colorado SB 085
- Connecticut HB 6277
- Indiana HB 1203
- Maryland SB 423/HB 666 and SB 422
- Wisconsin SB 414
- New York NHP sanctuary legislation

Expansion of Alternative Methods Policies

States increasingly sought to prioritize or financially support non-animal research methods:

- Maryland Human-Relevant Research Fund (SB 585/HB 625)
- New York Promoting Ethical Testing Solutions (P.E.T.S.) Act (S.3457/A.6871)
- Maryland SB 423/HB 666 alternative-method requirements
- Pennsylvania and Nevada testing restrictions

Restrictions on Specific Animal Research

Several proposals targeted particular species or research practices:

- Oregon SB 181 (dog and cat research restrictions)
- Oregon HB 3978 (primate research restrictions)
- Massachusetts Infant Primate Bill
- Massachusetts funding prohibition bill
- Pennsylvania “Beagle Bills”
- Connecticut breeder sourcing study bill

Ballot Initiatives and Broad Animal Rights Measures

Some efforts sought more sweeping changes:

- Oregon PEACE Act, which would remove research exemptions from animal cruelty laws and potentially subject federally regulated research to state criminal statutes.
- New York Animal Laws Task Force and Animal Justice Act proposals aimed at broader changes to animal law and legal status.

State Legislative Advocacy

State legislatures remained a major battleground for biomedical research in 2025 and 2026. NABR monitored and engaged on dozens of bills addressing animal research, including proposals to restrict research involving dogs, cats, and nonhuman primates; impose new reporting and transparency mandates; fund programs for alternative methods; and expand research animal adoption requirements. NABR successfully worked with coalition partners to defeat or improve several harmful measures while educating policymakers on the critical role animal research plays in advancing human and animal health.

Key NABR Engagements and Outcomes

Successfully opposed or helped defeat several restrictive state proposals, particularly in Oregon and other states considering broad limitations on biomedical research.

Led advocacy efforts on Maryland legislation to mitigate harmful provisions while preserving research capabilities.

Closely monitored emerging reporting, adoption, and alternatives funding mandates that could serve as models for future legislation nationwide.

Continued building state-based coalitions to respond to increasingly coordinated animal rights legislative campaigns.

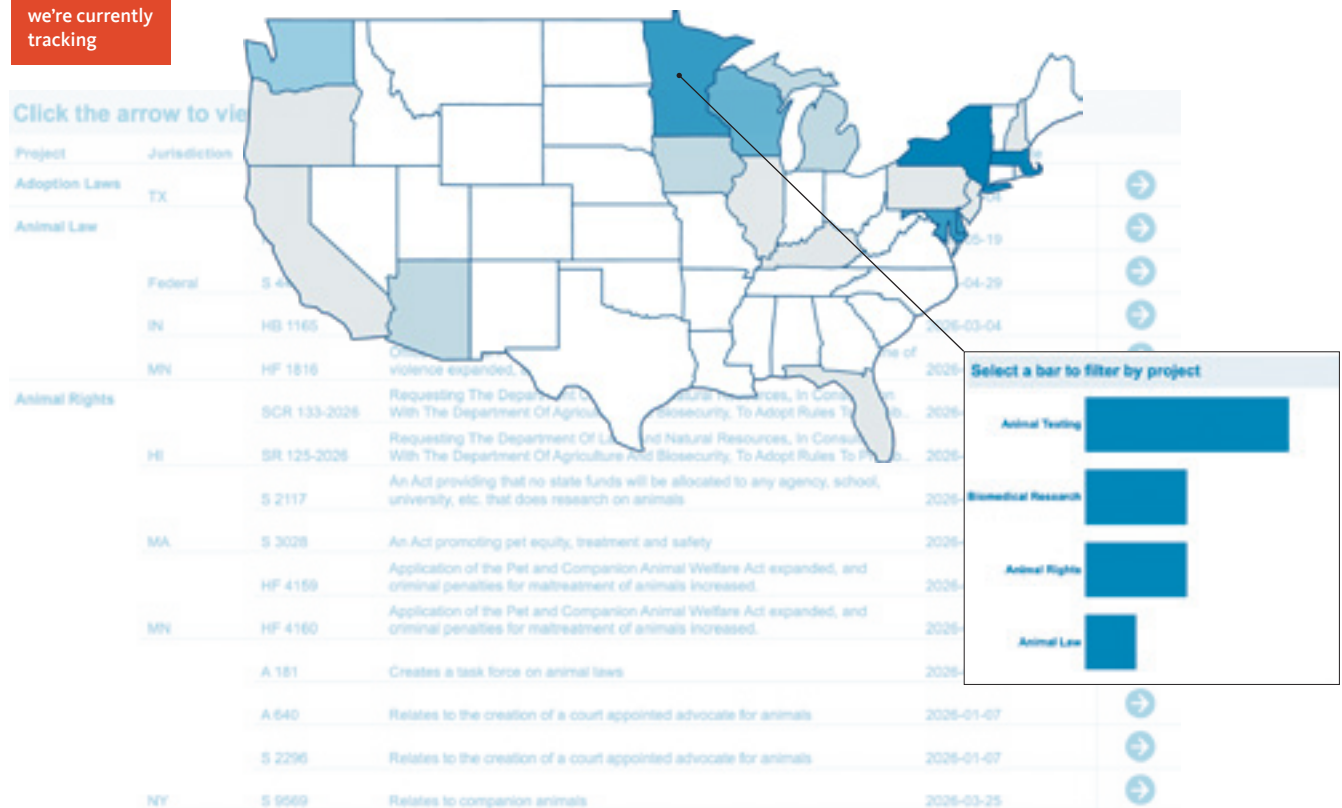


Bills

Biomedical Research Legislative Map

NABR compiles information on local, state, and federal legislation/government actions that could impact the biomedical research community. Our interactive map highlights all of the state bills we are currently tracking. The map updates in real time and anyone in the biomedical research community can openly access bill text, summaries, status, and more by accessing the map on our website at www.nabr.org.

An interactive mapping tool with states we're currently tracking



Legislative Trends: Animal Testing & Biomedical Research (2025–2026)

- **A coordinated push to restrict animal research is expanding:** Activist-backed proposals are increasingly targeting research policy, funding, and infrastructure.
- **Incremental restrictions pose the greatest risk:** Replacement mandates, reporting requirements, and agency directives could limit scientific flexibility without banning research outright.
- **States are becoming a key battleground:** New proposals threaten to create a patchwork of requirements affecting universities, companies, and research institutions.
- **Science, not politics, must guide research policy:** Legislative decisions that restrict validated animal models risk slowing innovation and delaying life-saving discoveries.

Regulatory Update

In FY 2025, the total number of inspections, citations, and facilities cited was down from the previous year. While the inspection process in FY 2026 was impacted by the government shutdown, it will probably produce similar results to those in FY 2025. The enforcement process continues to only issue letters of warning to research facilities in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2024 decision in *Securities & Exchange Commission v. Jarkesy*, in which the Court held that the Seventh Amendment right to a jury trial applied to the assessment of fines. The webinars that review the inspection process and the "Q&A with USDA" continue to be popular with the membership, with a combined registration of 1,160 individuals.



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An experienced and passionate team of individuals committed to the advancement of biomedical research.



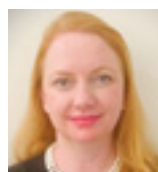
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Looking Ahead

As the biomedical research landscape continues to evolve, NABR remains committed to ensuring that life-saving research can advance responsibly, ethically, and with the resources necessary to address current and future public health challenges.

The year ahead will bring important policy debates surrounding research funding, scientific innovation, animal welfare, and the integration of emerging technologies and methodologies. NABR will continue to advocate for policies grounded in sound science, support sustained federal investment in research, and promote a regulatory environment that enables discovery while upholding the highest standards of animal care and welfare.

At the same time, NABR will remain focused on strengthening public understanding of the essential role animals continue to play in advancing treatments, vaccines, medical devices, and cures for humans and animals. Public policy discussions increasingly reflect ideological pressures rather than scientific evidence; clear, credible, fact-based communication—especially with federal and state policymakers—will be more important than ever.

Working alongside research institutions, scientific societies, patient advocacy and professional organizations and other stakeholders, NABR will continue to champion policies that support medical advancements and scientific excellence. The challenges facing the research community are significant, but so too are the opportunities to improve human and animal health through medical advancements.

The discoveries that will improve and save lives tomorrow depend on the decisions made today. NABR will continue to provide advocacy, guidance, and a strong voice for the biomedical research community. We will help ensure that fact-based science remains at the forefront of efforts to fight disease, safeguard and improve health, and strengthen America's position as the world leader in biomedical innovation.



NABR & FBR

NABR's sister organization, the Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR), is dedicated to increasing public understanding and support for humane and responsible animal research for medical and scientific studies.

NABR & FBR have worked together for decades to educate our nation's lawmakers and citizens about the vital role of laboratory animals in scientific and medical research. Visit FBR at www.fbresearch.org.

Join NABR Today

By joining NABR, your organization will align its interests with the larger scientific community to promote the advancement of sound public policy. Your membership or subscription will enable NABR to continue to safeguard the future of responsible and necessary biomedical research.

To obtain a membership application, please contact (202) 857-0540 or info@nabr.org, or visit www.nabr.org.



Sound Public Policy for People, Animals, and Science

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