



April 18, 2016

Senator Pat McGuire
Chair, Senate Higher Education Committee
311B Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator McGuire:

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR), and its more than 380 member institutions nationwide and their thousands of employees who engage in animal-related biomedical research, appreciates the opportunity to provide additional testimony to the Senate Higher Education Committee in opposition to Senate Bill 2356.

NABR members include universities, medical and veterinary schools, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and other research-intensive programs, including many research institutions in the state of Illinois, dedicated to the development of diagnostics, treatments and cures for animals and humans. Biomedical research projects involving animals, governed by multiple laws, regulations and guidelines, continue to yield invaluable data in the development of new therapies to treat human and animal disease. Cancer therapies, vaccines, organ transplants, cardiovascular surgeries, medicines, and many other innovations have been developed through research conducted at NABR member institutions.

SB2356, even in its newly amended form, remains of concern to our national membership for several reasons. While on the face of it, SB2356 appears benign, this legislation sets dangerous precedents affecting future lifesaving research and animal care.

As amended, research institutions in Illinois would be mandated to offer dogs and cats to animal rescue organizations for adoption when these animals are no longer required for research or testing purposes. This new provision remains misguided and largely redundant. Adoptions are common practice at public and private research institutions, including those within Illinois, and animals are not euthanized without a medical or research necessity. These animals, purposely bred for research, are not typical house pets and may require specialized care and attention. The existing research adoption programs include thoughtful and strict guidelines for evaluating potential adoptive owners and homes, something that private shelters or adoption organizations may not be equipped or trained to do. Under this provision in SB2356, animal rescue organizations potentially could be depriving these animals of time in a post-research home by inadvertently interfering with time tested and effective institutional adoption programs. In fact, there is no provision in this legislation to assure these animals will be placed in permanent adoptive homes. Thus, once they leave the research institutions, their journey and ultimate fate, will be unknown.

Until Illinois' shelters are empty and every adoption-worthy shelter animal is placed in its forever home, it would seem only logical to direct legislative efforts towards the homeless animals at municipal and state shelters. Unfortunately, thousands of Illinois' unadopted shelter animals are euthanized every year.

According to data obtained from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, in 2014 alone, 20,486 cats and dogs died in Illinois' shelters.

As NABR previously informed the Committee, legislation like SB2356 has been introduced in other states and is part of a campaign by animal rights activists opposed to all animal research. In fact, just last week a similar bill failed to pass in Maryland, due in part to concerns expressed by NABR and leading research universities and companies in the state. Activists promoting this legislation have used animals adopted from research programs as public relations props to highlight their false claims that animal research is not only cruel, but unnecessary. That argument could not be further from the truth. As you will see in the attached document, 22 of the top 25 most prescribed drugs in America were brought to fruition thanks to research with dogs¹. The activists behind these efforts don't plan to stop their campaign with passage of legislation requiring dog and cat adoption, either. As shown in the attached graphic posted to social media on March 9, 2016 by one of SB2356's main proponents, the Beagle Freedom Project (BFP), BFP hopes to "help end animal testing." Similarly, anti-research activists have also voiced interest that other research species, like rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, pigs and rats, be turned over for adoption. If enacted, SB2356 will provide fertile ground for future onerous amendments seeking to place additional burdens on lifesaving and life-improving research for humans and animals.

Research programs at venerable research institutions in Illinois, including Abbvie, Illinois State University, Northwestern University, Rush University, Southern Illinois University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Chicago, are vital to scientific discovery and the state should be justifiably proud. These institutions make invaluable contributions to public health and are significant economic drivers in the state. Currently, there are 44,451 life science jobs in Illinois and the state receives \$14,995,000,000 in federal, state and private funding. Legislative proposals like SB2356 create an anti-research climate which may result in biomedical programs locating to states with more amenable environments for their lifesaving research endeavors.

Finally, the provision in SB2356 which requires private research facilities to provide their dogs and cats to outside organizations may unconstitutionally deprive research institutions of property without due process or just compensation as referenced by the Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

NABR appreciates and understands the importance of re-homing animals no longer needed in lifesaving and life-enhancing biomedical research and supports the already existing and effective framework practiced nationwide by our research institutions; therefore, NABR opposes SB2356.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit testimony to the Committee.

Sincerely,



Frankie L. Trull
President
NABR

¹ <http://www.nabr.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Animal-Research-Behind-Top-25-Drugs.pdf>

The Animal Research Behind The Top 25 Most Prescribed Drugs

Rank	Drug	Drug Usage	Species
1	Synthroid	Enlarged thyroid; hypothyroidism	Rats, Dogs, Mice
2	Crestor	High cholesterol	Rats, Beagle dogs, Mice, Cats, Cynomolgus monkeys, Rabbits
3	Nexium	Heartburn; Acid Reflux	Rats, Beagle dogs, Rabbits, Mice
4	Ventolin HFA	Bronchospasm	Rats, Beagle dogs, New Zealand white rabbits
5	Advair Diskus	Asthma; COPD Flare-ups	Rats, Dogs, Mice, Rabbits, Guinea pigs, Monkeys, Hamsters
6	Diovan	High Blood Pressure	Rats, Mice, Rabbits, Marmosets
7	Lantus Solostar	Diabetes mellitus	Rats, Beagle Dogs, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs
8	Cymbalta	Fibromyalgia; Major Depressive & General Anxiety Disorders	Mice, Rats, Rabbits, Dogs
9	Vyvanse	ADHD; Severe binge eating (adults)	Rats, Guinea Pigs, Beagle Dogs
10	Lyrica	Fibromyalgia; Epilepsy	Mice, Rats, Monkeys, Rabbits
11	Spiriva Handihaler	COPD (including Bronchitis & Emphysema)	Mice, Rats, Rabbits, Dogs
12	Lantus	Types 1 & 2 Diabetes	Mice, Dogs, Guinea Pigs, Rats
13	Celebrex	Arthritis; Ankylosing Spondylitis	Rats, Mice, Beagle Dogs, Monkeys
14	Abilify	Schizophrenia & Bipolar Disorder	Rats, Dogs, Monkeys, Rabbits
15	Januvia	Type 2 Diabetes	Rats, Rabbits, Dogs, Monkeys
16	Namenda	Moderate to Severe Dementia	Rats, Mice, Beagle Dogs
17	Viagra	Erectile Dysfunction	Rats, Dogs, Mice, Rabbits
18	Cialis	Erectile Dysfunction	Mice, Beagle Dogs, Wistar Rats
19	Zetia	High cholesterol	Rats, Dogs, Mice
20	Nasonex	Seasonal/Year Round Allergies	Rats, Rabbits, Dogs
21	Suboxone	Narcotic Addiction	Mice, Rats, Rabbits, Baboons, Dogs
22	Symbicort	Asthma	Mice, Rats, Dogs
23	Bystolic	Hypertension	Mice, Rats, Dogs
24	Flovent HFA	Prevent Asthma Attacks	Rats, Rabbits, Dogs
25	Oxycontin	Long lasting, Moderate to Severe Pain	Rats, Rabbits

References

Food and Drug Administration New Drug Application Database Accessed May, 2015.
(<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/index.cfm>)

Brooks M. Top 100 Most Prescribed, Top-Selling Drugs. Medscape. Aug 1, 2014. Accessed May, 2015.
(<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/829246>)



Beagle Freedom Project

March 9 at 8:56am · 🌐

#Truth bfp.org

Laboratories hate our
liberations & would
rather these  dogs
be kept hidden

behind bars with no
name and no future.
Fortunately BFP has
already saved over
30 lab  animals from
labs in 4 states and 3
 countries in 2016!

They are the best
ambassadors to help
end animal testing.

