



February 10, 2017

Senator Joan Carter Conway
Chair, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
General Assembly of Maryland
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Conway:

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee in opposition to Senate Bill 420.

NABR, and its more than 360 member institutions and their thousands of employees who engage in animal-related biomedical research, writes to express concerns with S.B.420. 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 Maryland, that are 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 disease. Cancer therapies, vaccines, organ transplants, cardiovascular surgeries and medicines, and many other innovations for human and animals have been developed through research conducted at our member institutions.

S.B.420, simply put, is misguided and unnecessary. The adoption of research animals is not a new concept for biomedical research. The vast majority of research programs in the United States already conduct adoption programs with great success. These animals have been purposely bred for research and are not typical house pets. They require specialized care and attention, beyond those of the common household pet, and every effort must be made to ensure proper acclimatization and evaluation before placement in post-research homes. The existing efforts organized by research programs for adoption include careful and strict guidelines for evaluating potential adoptive homes, something that private shelters or adoption organizations may not be equipped or trained to do. S.B.420 does not permit these important criteria to be analyzed when re-homing an animal nor does it specify who will decide if an animal is suitable for adoption.

As compared to the thousands of unadopted Maryland shelter animals that will be euthanized every year, this legislation affects a miniscule number of dogs and cats in research programs in the state. Until Maryland's 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 numerous homeless animals at municipal and state shelters. According to Save Maryland Pets, a coalition that includes the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), 45,000 cats and dogs die in Maryland shelters every year at a taxpayer cost of \$8 to \$9 million/year¹. The 96,000 pets entering Maryland animal shelters annually stand barely a 50 percent chance of survival². And adoption of research dogs and cats is not as straightforward as it may appear. The animals that are bred for research require knowledge, patience and consistency to ensure they thrive in post-research homes, and if hastily placed in an improper setting, they could potentially end up homeless or in the shelter system facing euthanasia.

Legislation like S.B.420 has been introduced in other states and is part of a campaign by animal rights activists opposed to all animal research. Due in part to concerns expressed by NABR and leading research universities and companies, similar bills failed to pass in Maryland and Illinois last session. In fact, just two weeks ago a similar bill in North Dakota failed to pass. Activists promoting this legislation have used animals adopted from research programs as public relations props to highlight their false claims that animal research is cruel and unnecessary. That argument could not be further from the truth. Animal research is highly regulated by individual institutions and the United States Government and 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 dogs³. 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 S.B.420's main proponents, the Beagle Freedom Project (BFP) hopes to "...end animal testing." Most in research agree science should determine when and where replacements to animal models are feasible, not animal rights groups. Similarly, anti-research activists have also expressed an interest in other research species, such as rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, pigs, rats and goldfish, be turned over for adoption.

If enacted, S.B.420 will provide fertile ground for future, more onerous amendments seeking to place additional burdens on lifesaving and life-improving research for humans and animals. After the bill in Illinois failed to pass, BFP introduced secondary legislation seeking arduous, overly burdensome, and duplicative reporting requirements for any research study involving dogs or cats, similar to those found in S.B.420. The Illinois legislature chose not to pass that bill. Additional reporting requirements like those proposed in Illinois and Maryland are of great concern because according to a National Science Board study, researchers today are only able to devote 58% of their time doing actual research because of administrative duties set forth by regulation⁴. They also undermine federal efforts like those in the landmark 21st Century Cures Act signed by President Barack Obama just months ago, which aims to ease unnecessary regulations and to accelerate the delivery of cures to patients.

¹ <http://www.savemarylandpets.org/get-facts>

² Ibid

³ <http://www.nabr.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Animal-Research-Behind-Top-25-Drugs.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2014/nsb1418/nsb1418.pdf>

The state of Maryland should be justifiably proud of its venerable research institutions, including Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, and the dynamic and productive research discoveries they have made to improve the health of both humans and other animals. Private and public research are also substantial economic drivers in the state. In total, 71,600 life science jobs are in Maryland and those workers earn 76% more than the state average⁵. Maryland receives \$2,538,000,000 in research and development from the biomedical research industry⁶. Legislative proposals like S.B.420 create an anti-research climate which may result in biomedical programs looking to other states as more supportive climates for their lifesaving research endeavors.

Finally, the provision in S.B.420 which requires private research facilities to adopt out dogs and cats 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 S.B.420.

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

Sincerely,



Matthew R. Bailey
President
NABR

⁵ <http://www.researchamerica.org/sites/default/files/uploads/MarylandEconomicImpactFactSheet.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.researchamerica.org/advocacy-action/research/research-funding-and-economic-impact-funding-states/maryland>



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.



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>)