Talking Points

“Animal Welfare Accountability and Transparency Act”
(S.503 and H.R.1368)

- NABR opposes this legislation, as it would slow life-saving research and harm competitive American business, without improving transparency or the welfare of animals used in the United States.

- This legislation is an unnecessary reaction to USDA’s evaluation of the information publicly posted on its website in response to a lawsuit. Despite its name, this bill would not improve accountability or transparency, as USDA has already largely completed its evaluation and reposted the information that would be required.

- These bills awkwardly attempt to link the unrelated concepts of compliance with federal animal welfare laws and tax depreciation. How property is depreciated has no relation to or impact on USDA citations.

- This legislation would harm competitive American businesses and slow life-saving research by effectively increasing taxes on companies cited by USDA, through prohibition of accelerated depreciation. The “aggregation rules” of the proposed legislation would amplify the impact.

- The prohibition on using accelerated depreciation for new property applies retroactively to facilities cited by USDA in the last five years and would put research facilities in the same disfavored tax status as property imported from countries with trade restrictions or engaged in discriminatory acts.