H.R. 249

“Federal Accountability in Chemical Testing (The FACT) Act”

“A bill to amend the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 to improve reporting about animal testing and alternative test method use by Federal agencies.”

INTRODUCTION

- Introduced on 1/04/2019 by Representative Ken Calvert (R-CA)
- Cosponsors: Vern Buchanan (R-FL), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Dina Titus (D-NV)

BILL SUMMARY

- The FACT Act would add a paragraph to the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) Authorization Act to require the addition of animal census information for all research species (including all rodents) to be included in the biannual ICCVAM report.
  - Animal use data required to be reported would include species, number of animals used and type of test(s) used in each study.
- Also required in the biannual ICCVAM report would be the inclusion of “a description of the progress on the development, validation, acceptance, and utilization of alternative test methods for toxicological testing conducted, supported or required.”
- Federal agencies that would be required to comply with the Act include:
  - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
  - Consumer Product Safety Commission
  - Department of Agriculture
  - Department of Defense
  - Department of Energy
  - Department of the Interior
  - Department of Transportation
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Food and Drug Administration
  - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
IMPLICATIONS

- The bill would impact reporting on primarily rats and mice because USDA regulated species are already counted by the USDA and available through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- **Every federal agency conducting, supporting, or requiring** animal use in toxicity testing would be affected by this bill. Companies and universities required by the government to conduct such tests involving animals may also be affected.
- The data required by this bill will predictably be used by animal activist groups in future campaigns against animal research and testing.
- The bill appears to run counter to the Administration’s efforts to roll back excessive regulations by creating additional burden on federal agencies. It is also counter to language in the 21st Century Cures Act that aims to reduce regulatory burden on animal studies.
- Odds of passage are currently low, but the status could change with the addition of co-sponsors over time. This bill is a reintroduction of H.R. 816 from the 115th Congress, where it did not move from the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The bill will remain active through the end of the legislative session in December 2020.