



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

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February 27, 2018

Senator Joan Carter Conway
Chair, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Conway:

As the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States, representing 30 societies and over 130,000 scientists, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is writing to oppose Senate Bill 675, the Humane Adoption of Companion Animals Used in Research Act of 2018. This legislation is unnecessary because institutions that use dogs and other companion animals in research already adopt out their animals when possible and the reporting requirements are redundant and burdensome.

The adoption of research animals is widely utilized by the research community, and decisions about how and when to do so is best left to highly qualified experts who have cared for the animals in the laboratory environment. Research institutions already have adoption plans established for the retirement of dogs and other companion animals. These plans take into account the types of studies the dog or other companion animal has been involved in, whether the animals – which are purpose bred for research – are suitable for adoption, and a host of other factors. Legislation mandating the adoption of research animals may not permit these important factors to be taken into consideration.

The unsubstantiated need for this bill would result in additional, duplicative regulatory burden on Maryland research and teaching institutions. Much of the information that the legislation requests is already available on the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service website. Why require redundant, burdensome paperwork for institutions to complete when the information already exists?

As representatives of the biomedical research community, we urge you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Baldwin, PhD
FASEB President

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