



February 10, 2017

HHS Secretary Confirmed by Senate

The Senate has confirmed Representative Tom Price (R-GA) to be U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. Despite efforts by Democrats to delay his confirmation process, he was confirmed early Friday morning by a vote of 52-47.

Sonny Perdue, President Trump's nomination for U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, will soon be vetted by the Senate Agriculture Committee, although a date for the hearing is yet to be determined. Perdue, a small business owner and veterinarian by training, would oversee a federal department that implements a broad range of programs including USDA's enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act.

Watch your inbox for updates from NABR about Perdue's confirmation process.

New Federal Legislation Would Require Broad Reporting of Animal Use Data

Representative Ken Calvert (R-CA) has introduced [H.R. 816](#), the Federal Accountability in Chemical Testing (FACT) Act. The bill would amend the [Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods \(ICCVAM\) Authorization Act of 2000](#) and would add a requirement that federal agencies must "include a description of the progress on the development, validation, acceptance, and utilization of alternative test methods (including animal use data by species, number, and test type) for toxicological testing conducted, supported, or required." In short, Calvert's bill would require the addition of animal census information for all research species (including rodents) to be included in the biannual ICCVAM report. The legislation would appear to represent an additional reporting requirement for federal agencies. Agencies affected include: USDA, DOD, DOE, Department of Interior, DOT, EPA, FDA, NIH, OSHA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The impact of this legislation likely extends beyond federal agencies, as a number of them require animal testing to be conducted outside the agency.

The introduction of the bill was stirred by the [White Coat Waste Project \(WCW\)](#), an animal activist organization that aims to end the use of animals in federally funded research. WCW is engaging with Republican members of Congress by claiming taxpayers could save money by eliminating animal research at the federal level. According to [WCW's website](#), its approach is to "drain the swamp: cut government spending that hurts animals and taxpayers."

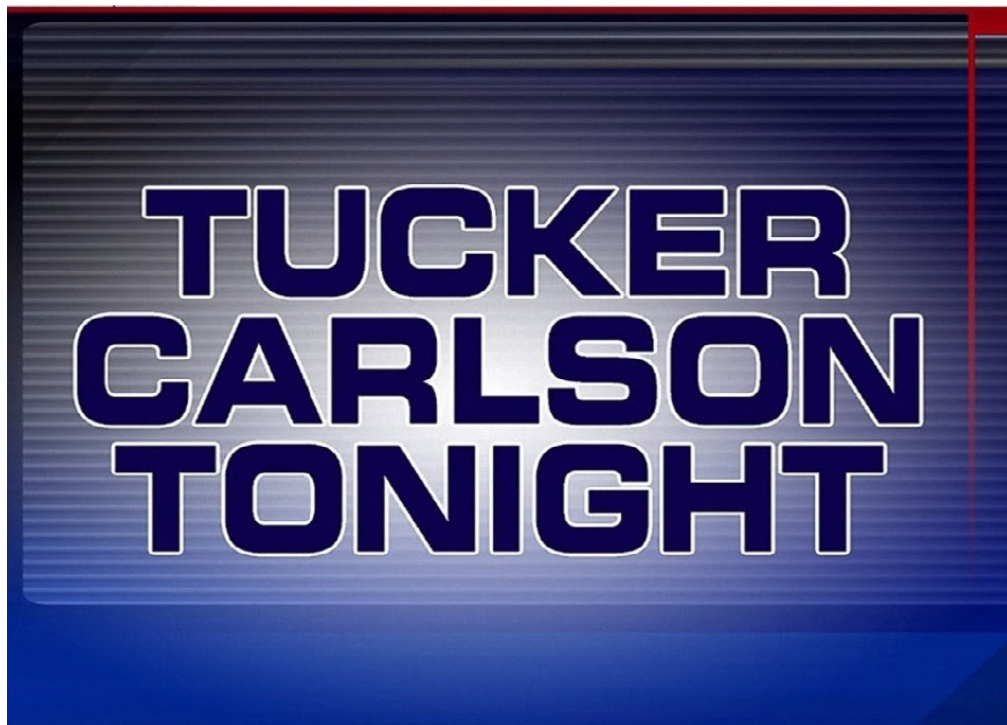
At the time of this writing, the bill has acquired 13 cosponsors: Representatives Ed Royce (R-CA), Vern Buchanan (R-FL), Mike Bishop (R-MI), Dina Titus (D-NV), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Tom Marino (R-PA), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Mike Quigley (D-IL), Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Julia Brownley (D-CA). The bill has been referred to the [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#) and will remain alive until the end of the legislative session in December of 2018. To view NABR's summary of the bill, [click here](#). For the full bill text, [click here](#).

NABR's Position Statement on USDA Removal of Enforcement Action Database

The National Association for Biomedical Research supports transparency for information that serves the public good. Historically we have found USDA enforcement data extremely valuable in tracking and analyzing animal use trends in research. We hope the USDA will strike the proper balance between protecting personal privacy and informing the public as expeditiously as possible. [Click here](#) to read more about the USDA decision.

Tucker Carlson Tonight Show Provides Platform for Beagle Freedom Project

[Tucker Carlson interviewed](#) vice president of the [Beagle Freedom Project](#), Kevin Chase (also known to many in the research community as Kevin Kjonaas or Kevin Jonas), on his Fox News show Wednesday evening to discuss the USDA's decision to remove enforcement data from its website. During the interview, Kjonaas held a beagle dog in his lap and stated that government watchdog organizations like the Beagle Freedom Project rely on the USDA database to identify research facilities using dogs and cats so they can find homes for the animals after completion of studies. When asked about the fate of dogs that are not adopted, Kjonaas asserted, "if they don't get an invitation from a rescue charity like Beagle Freedom Project, then sadly many of these dogs do die." He also claimed that experiments with dogs are a waste of federal grants due to what he called redundant and failed experiments. Beagle Freedom Project is urging President Trump to call administrators at USDA and add the records back to its website. According to Neilsen Media Research, Carlson's show garnered 3.73 million viewers at the end of January. In 2006, [Kjonaas was one of several individuals convicted of violating the federal Animal Enterprise Protection Act \(18 USC 43\)](#), and was sentenced to 6 years in federal prison for his role in a protracted campaign of threats and harassment against entities involved with biomedical research.



Research Dog Adoption Bill Fails in North Dakota; Progress in Hawaii and Maryland

The North Dakota State Legislature has failed to pass a bill that would have required research institutions within the state to offer dogs and cats to third-party animal rescue organizations for adoption upon completion of studies. [House Bill 1267](#) was considered by the House Agriculture Committee on February 2nd and received an unfavorable vote of 9-84.

Dog and cat research adoption bills have been a hot topic again this year in state legislatures. Since the start of 2017, similar bills have been introduced in state legislatures in the following states: Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Dakota and Rhode Island. [House Bill 3](#) and [Senate Bill 593](#) were both passed by the Agriculture Committees in Hawaii last week. NABR sent an alert to its membership in Hawaii urging them to contact the state legislature in opposition to the bills. In Maryland, [House Bill 528](#) and [Senate Bill 420](#) are slated for public hearings on February 14th and February 21st, respectively. NABR plans to submit letters of opposition to the Maryland State Legislature for these bills.

NABR Provides Members with Tracking Sheet for Mandatory Lab Animal Adoption Bills

In order to keep NABR members up-to-date on legislative matters affecting animal research, [NABR has created a document](#) tracking the mandatory research dog adoption bills that have been introduced in state legislatures thus far in 2017. The document provides detail for each proposed adoption bill, including the sponsor and a summary of the impact of each bill. In addition, it provides a timeline of the bills as they progress through each state legislature, noting key information and highlighting important future dates.

NABR recognizes the importance of staying informed about legislation that will directly affect the work of its member organizations. We anticipate this document will become a key tool for assessing state legislative developments that directly impact biomedical research efforts. [Click here](#) to find the full tracking chart in the Legislative portion of [NABR's Members Only section](#) (login required).

Survey Responses Needed to Help Improve Research Animal Transportation Infrastructure

[The International Air Transport Association \(IATA\)](#) has launched its [Global Shipper Survey](#) for the second year. This survey helps IATA gain a better understanding of the perceptions, experiences and expectations facing shippers so that it can improve its services. If your institution ships animals by air, please take five minutes of your time to fill out this survey. IATA does critical work for the research animal transportation infrastructure. The survey must be completed by February 15th.

The results of the survey will be kept anonymous and will be shared at IATA's World Cargo Symposium in March 2017, in Abu Dhabi. [Click here](#) to view the results of the 2015 Global Shipper Survey.