



November 30, 2017

## Attention Virginia Residents: Tell State Senators to OPPOSE Defunding of Dog & Cat Research

Last week, a member of the Virginia State Senate pre-filed a bill that targets research in the state involving dogs and cats. [Senate Bill 28](#) would prohibit state funding for any public or private research with dogs or cats that a.) is considered “medically unnecessary” or b.) causes “significant pain or distress” to the animal. The bill also includes a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 per incident. “Medically unnecessary” is defined as “not carried out solely for the better health, welfare, or safety of the animal subject.” The full bill text is available [here](#).

It is slated to be introduced when the Virginia State Assembly’s legislative session begins in January, and has been referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee. To prepare for the start of the session, we encourage Virginia residents to [send this pre-formatted letter to your state senators](#), urging them to OPPOSE S.B. 28 because of its negative precedent and implications for important research affecting both humans and animals in the state. Please also share [this alert](#) with your colleagues, family, and friends in Virginia.

**VIRGINIA RESIDENTS: TELL STATE SENATORS TO OPPOSE S.B. 28**

## HHS Secretary Vetted by Senate HELP Committee

Yesterday, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions [held a hearing](#) to vet Alex M. Azar II, President Donald Trump’s nominee for U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Next, the Senate Finance Committee will vote on the nomination, followed by a final confirmation vote by the full Senate. Azar would replace former HHS Secretary Tom Price, who resigned from the position in September following scrutiny about taxpayer-funded jets that he used for personal and business travel. Eric Hargan is currently serving as acting secretary of the department.

Azar served as general counsel and deputy secretary of HHS under George W. Bush, and subsequently served as president of Lilly USA, an affiliate of Eli Lilly and Co. To watch yesterday’s hearing, [click here](#). For *The Washington Post*’s coverage, [please click here](#). Stay tuned for more updates about Azar’s confirmation process.

## NABR’s January Webinar Rescheduled

During NABR’s recent webinar, [“Reducing Burden: Options and Opportunities.”](#) we announced our annual review of USDA inspection data was scheduled for January 9, 2018. Since then, a scheduling conflict has occurred involving an important meeting related to the reduction of regulatory burden mandated in the 21st Century Cures Act, so we are moving the webinar to February 6, 2018. Please mark your calendar for the new date and join us for [“The 2017 USDA Inspection Data: Celebrating a New Milestone in Compliance?”](#)

Each year, NABR obtains information from the USDA’s Animal Care Inspection System database to review

the inspection results for the previous fiscal year. This year, that effort was complicated by lack of access to the searchable database which could be used to download data into spreadsheets for what would have been a relatively straightforward analysis of the actual inspection data. The new Public Search Tool provides data efficiently, but the data is difficult to analyze. Fortunately, with our analysis, we will provide you with valuable insight into the inspection process.

[We invite you to join NABR](#) on February 6, 2018 when we look at the data from FY 2017 as we compare it to analyses from previous years. Our findings will demonstrate how the research community continues to improve its compliance with the letter and spirit of the regulations. This information will help you manage your own animal care and use program in the coming fiscal year. [Registration](#) is complimentary for dues-paying NABR members and subscribers.

**REGISTER TODAY!**

## **NABR Letter to Congress Opposing PUPPERS Act**

Today, NABR [sent a letter](#) to the chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees in opposition to [H.R. 3197](#), the “PUPPERS Act,” and [a similar amendment](#) offered by Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA) to the House-passed homeland security minibuss. The legislation would effectively end studies with canine models at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Earlier this month, 41 scientific and medical organizations and research universities [sent a letter](#) to Congress in opposition to these efforts. To read the letter to the Hill signed by these 41 organizations, [click here](#).

If you have not yet shared your own concerns with Congress, [please take a moment to speak up](#) by sending a pre-written, editable message to your Representatives and Senators to ask them to oppose H.R. 3197 and Rep. Brat’s amendment. Please also encourage your friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors to make their voices heard, too. [Sending the pre-written letter](#) is quick, easy, and private, and most importantly should go a long way in protecting these important programs for our nation’s veterans.

**TELL CONGRESS TO OPPOSE EFFORTS TO DEFUND DOG RESEARCH**

## **Sen. Lankford’s ‘Federal Fumbles Wastebook’ Highlights Chimp Haven and a Rhesus Study**

This week, Sen. James Lankford announced the third volume of his government spending “wastebook,” entitled [“Federal Fumbles: 100 Ways the Government Dropped the Ball.”](#) The so-called “wastebook” provides 100 examples of ways that, in the Senator’s estimation, the government is wasting taxpayers’ money. Included in this year’s volume are two items of interest to the animal research community: chimpanzees housed at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)’s National Center for Chimpanzee Care (NCCC) (page 1) and a project that tracks rhesus monkeys to understand their social hierarchy (page 40).

[According to the document](#), “It is unclear why the NIH has continued to pay to keep, feed, and care for the 139 chimpanzees at the NCCC. The \$2 million or more spent on the chimpanzees annually would be better spent on actual medical research to benefit the American taxpayers who paid for it. The NIH should safely relinquish the chimpanzees to animal sanctuaries, zoos, or other groups who can use private dollars for their care.”

To view the full 80-page report, [please click here](#).

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## PETA Calls for Undercover Investigators

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) [has announced on its website](#) that it is seeking to hire undercover investigators. The posting calls for [field observers](#) to "work in their facilities, document their abuse of animals, and expose it." In the posting, PETA also claims that in the past 10 years its investigations have resulted in 350 citations by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1,000 criminal charges and the closing of 17 facilities. The posting features [an undercover video](#) by a PETA employee at a contract testing facility involving cats, dogs, and rabbits. To read PETA's field observer job description, [click here](#).

## ILAR Workshop on Laboratory Animal Law

On January 26, 2018, you are invited to join a workshop hosted by the Roundtable on Science and Welfare in Laboratory Animal Use of the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research, the Animal Law and Policy Program, and the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology and Bioethics of the Harvard Law School. The workshop, entitled "[Future Directions for Laboratory Animal Law in the United States](#)," will take place at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, MA.

The workshop will explore the future of federal laboratory animal law in the United States and examine the impact of technological advances on the current legal framework surrounding laboratory animal welfare. [Click here to register for the workshop](#).

[A pre-workshop webcast](#) will also be available to view on January 17, 2018 at 12:00 P.M. EST.

Both the workshop and webcast are free and open to the public, but please fill out a registration form if you plan to attend the workshop. The events will be recorded and [posted here](#) after the event.

## AALAS Grant Application Open Until February 1

The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) will be [accepting applications](#) for its Grant for Laboratory Animal Science (GLAS) until February 1, 2018. The award is given to research projects that will promote the enhancement of scientific knowledge in laboratory animal health and welfare.

Since its inception in 2006, the GLAS program has awarded 62 research grants that have advanced the field of laboratory animal science. The grant categories are Standard Grants for up to \$50,000 and Small Grants for up to \$7,500. Program information, the application form, and an application tutorial will be available at [www.aalas.org/glas](http://www.aalas.org/glas) on December 1.

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