

## Humane Cosmetics Act Reintroduced

Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Sen. Martha McSally (R-AZ) reintroduced The Humane Cosmetics Act (S. 2886) in the Senate on Monday. When available, the full bill text will be viewed [here](#). This bill would “prohibit the use of animal testing for cosmetics and the sale of cosmetics tested on animals.”

A similar [bill](#) has been introduced in the House by Representatives Donald Beyer (D-VA), Vern Buchanan (R-FL), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), Paul Tonko (D-NY), Ken Calvert (R-CA) and Fred Upton (R-MI). Several of these cosponsors have supported legislation backed by the White Coat Waste Project (WCWP) in the past. [H.R. 5141](#) would “substantially restrict the use of animal testing for cosmetics.” The full bill text is not yet available.

This is not the first time legislation on animal testing for cosmetics has been introduced. [The Humane Cosmetics Act](#) failed to pass in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Humane Cosmetics Act was originally introduced in 2014 and has been unsuccessful in each Congress thus far. This is the first time the bill will be introduced in the Senate.

Sen. Booker’s support for the Humane Cosmetics Act follows his introduction of a restrictive nonhuman primate (NHP) research bill in December 2018. [The Primate Protection and Research Modernization Act of 2018](#) failed to pass in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. The bill would have effectively brought NHP research in the country to a halt.

Draft language for the Humane Cosmetics Act is available on original sponsor Sen. McSally’s (R-AZ) [website](#). The [draft](#) fails to provide an explicit exemption for biomedical research.

If bill text remains the same as previous years, the Humane Cosmetics Act will likely have no direct impact on biomedical research. NABR is closely monitoring the bill for any research implications and will provide an update when the final bill text is publicly available.

## **PACT Act Passes by Voice Vote in House and Unanimous Consent in Senate**

On October 22, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 724, also known as the [Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture \(PACT\) Act](#) by voice vote. This bill seeks to revise and expand criminal provisions with regard to creating or distributing animal crushing videos. Containing explicit exemptions for medical or scientific research, this bill currently does not impact animal research. A list of all cosponsors is available here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/724/cosponsors>.

The Senate version, [S. 479](#), passed on November 5 and was sent to the President for signature on November 18. The Senate version also contained an explicit exemption for medical or scientific research. You can view a list of Senate cosponsors here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/479/cosponsors>. President Trump has not yet signed the bill. You can read NABR's full bill summary here: <https://www.nabr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PACT-Act-Analysis-2019s-Final.pdf>.

## **Congress Passes Stopgap Funding Bill**

The Senate voted [today 74-20](#) on passage of [H.R. 3055](#), the stopgap funding bill which is set to fund the government through December 20 as Congress has yet to finish their Fiscal Year 2020 budget. The House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution on Tuesday, November 19 by a vote of 231-192. There has been some back and forth between the House and the Senate over exactly which version of the continuing resolution they were both voting on, until both chambers settled on [H.R. 3055](#).

The House and Senate still are in the process of resolving differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill before it is sent to President Trump whose signature is required by midnight to avoid a partial government shutdown.

## **Ohio Animal Rights Extremist Stabs Woman in Church**

A well-known Ohio animal rights extremist, Meredith Lowell, [has been arrested](#) for stabbing another woman inside Fairmount Presbyterian Church because the victim was wearing a fur coat, according to police. Lowell has been charged with attempted murder

and felonious assault.

Apparently, this is not Lowell's first attempt to harm another human for wearing a fur coat. In 2012, Lowell created a fake online profile to attempt to [solicit a hitman](#) for the purpose of murdering someone wearing fur in a public library. Lowell was subsequently discovered by the FBI and arrested. In [emails intercepted by the FBI](#), Lowell stated that she saw nothing wrong with "liberating" animals from fur factory farms and laboratories because "soldiers liberated people from Nazi camps in World War 2."

In 2013, U.S. District Judge Patricia Gaughan [released Ms. Lowell](#) based on the results of a psychological report that found she was not mentally competent to stand trial.

## **PETA Touts “Research Modernization Deal”**

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has released its “Research Modernization Deal” for 2020. The deal details a strategy for “replacing the use of animals in experiments with human-relevant methods,” according to PETA’s website. The full document can be read here: [https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/The-Research-Modernization-Deal-Report-US\\_FINAL\\_2020\\_300.pdf](https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/The-Research-Modernization-Deal-Report-US_FINAL_2020_300.pdf).

In its action plan, PETA lists several recommendations for “modernizing” biomedical research, including increased funds for non-animal studies, decreased funds for animal studies, and self-assessment burdens for research entities. The animal rights group recommends immediate elimination of animal use in more than 30 research areas, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes, and neurodegenerative diseases.

While researchers continually work to develop more non-animal research models, animal models remain essential to disease research and the drug development process. Animals contributed to the development of the [top 25 most prescribed drugs in America](#) and will continue to play an irreplaceable role in basic research.

NABR is carefully reviewing the document with a specific focus on the more than 400 sources used.

## **WCWP Advertisement Being Reviewed in Maryland**

A new [advertisement](#) by The White Coat Waste Project (WCWP) has [entered legal review](#), according to Vector Media, which handles the Maryland Transit Administration's advertising, "at least in part on the grounds that it makes 'prohibited' substances appealing to children." The advertisement features a smoking monkey and reads "\$6M in taxes for junkie monkeys? That's bananas." The advertisement has not been rejected and is currently under review.

Previously, the WCPW [successfully](#) sued the Maryland Transit Administration for rejecting their advertisements regarding toxoplasmosis research with cats at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## **Settlement Agreement Reached in SUNY Lawsuit on Cat Research**

According to a press release from the [Animal Legal Defense Fund](#) (ALDF), a settlement has been reached with the State University of New York (SUNY) and Citizens for the Alternatives to Animal Research and Experimentation (CAARE). According to ALDF, as part of the settlement, SUNY will be providing documentation proving that the College of Optometry has stopped all research with cats. SUNY will also provide previously withheld records regarding the cats in research, as well as records regarding similar research with nonhuman primates.

## **Attention NABR Members: Nominations for ILAR Council Needed!**

The National Academies is seeking nominations for 5-7 new members of its Institute for Laboratory Animal Research Council (ILAR). Within the National Academies, ILAR is the focal point for activities related to advancing science to benefit human and animal health. The ILAR Council provides program direction and strategic planning; oversees information and communications programs; oversees studies, reports workshops, and other projects; and directs ILAR's international programs.

Experts in biomedical research, field-based animal research, biodiversity conservation, and the interdisciplinary enterprise of animal-human-environmental interaction in natural

and captive settings are sought members. The nomination process will close on December 11.

To submit a nomination, click here:

[https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5262149/Institute-for-Laboratory-Animal-Research-Council?utm\\_source=Division+on+Earth+and+Life+Studies&utm\\_campaign=eebb0a2d8c-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_11\\_19\\_07\\_05&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3c0b1ad5c8-eebb0a2d8c-234486273&mc\\_cid=eebb0a2d8c&mc\\_eid=582bf6b26e](https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5262149/Institute-for-Laboratory-Animal-Research-Council?utm_source=Division+on+Earth+and+Life+Studies&utm_campaign=eebb0a2d8c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_19_07_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3c0b1ad5c8-eebb0a2d8c-234486273&mc_cid=eebb0a2d8c&mc_eid=582bf6b26e).

## **NABR Webinar: The 2019 USDA Oversight Process**

Please join us on January 7th for the kick-off of the 2020 NABR Webinar series, "[The 2019 USDA Oversight Process](#)."

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 we continued our ongoing review process in an attempt to optimize our efficiency in using the Public Search Tool. By regularly downloading and analyzing data throughout the year we are better able to understand and monitor the overall inspection process.

This year we were able to quickly notice a change in that process in terms of the number and types of citations issued. In addition to our annual review of the inspection data and analysis of the type of non-compliant issues cited, we will highlight and discuss changes to the overall inspection process and any revisions to the Animal Welfare Inspection Guide. We will also review the possible changes to the USDA oversight process as a result of the final report, "Reducing the Administrative Burden on Investigators: Animal Care and Use in Research."

Register here by January 1:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1282895177004630539>