

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 31, 2024

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Armed Services  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Armed Services  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith,

As the House and Senate prepare to negotiate the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we write to strongly urge the inclusion of a broadly supported bipartisan measure included in the House version of the bill to prevent unnecessary, wasteful and inhumane experimentation on dogs and cats.

The amendment passed by voice vote prohibits the Department of Defense (DOD) from funding dog and cat experiments with a responsible exemption for national security purposes.<sup>1</sup> This common-sense provision:

**1. Harmonizes long-standing DOD policy prohibiting harmful dog and cat research**

Since 1990, the DOD has prohibited the "purchase or use of live dogs or cats for the purpose of training in surgical or other medical treatment of wounds produced by any type of weapon."<sup>2</sup> However, recent evidence shows that a loophole in this policy has allowed the harmful use of dogs and cats in other kinds of DOD research for which alternative species and models exist.

**2. Eliminates wasteful spending on unnecessary dog and cat experiments**

The DOD continues to spend millions of taxpayer dollars for harmful experimentation on dogs and cats.<sup>3,4</sup> Experts attest that superior alternatives to the DOD's use of dogs and cats in

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<sup>1</sup> H.R. 8070 (as engrossed in the House) § 229

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/321601p.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2024/07/03/wcw-investigation-pentagon-pays-lab-to-electro-shock-cats-force-felines-to-defecate-marbles/>

biomedical research and testing are now available.<sup>5</sup> The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency also states that, “animal models have limited relevance to humans and poorly predict effects in humans.”<sup>6</sup>

### **3. Aligns DOD policy on dog and cat testing with other federal agencies**

Congress has enacted legislation directing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to fully eliminate testing on dogs and cats.<sup>7</sup> Under both the Trump and Biden Administrations, the agency has embraced this and now entirely replaced the use of cats and dogs in harmful research with other testing methods including alternative species, in vitro models and other techniques.<sup>8,9</sup>

This narrowly crafted provision does not prohibit or otherwise impact biomedical research with species other than dogs and cats. Additionally, if a rare instance should arise where alternatives to dog or cat testing are not available for research necessary to protect national security, the provision allows the Secretary of Defense to waive the prohibition.

This measure would eliminate wasteful spending on unnecessary and outdated research, make DOD more efficient and effective, and protect pets from abuse. This initiative to cut DOD dog and cat experiments is widely supported by colleagues on both sides of the aisle, including many members of the Armed Services Committee.<sup>10</sup> It is supported by a variety of veterans service organizations, animal welfare advocates, and good government groups.

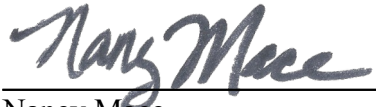
We strongly urge you to preserve Section 229 of HR 8070 in the NDAA during conference negotiations.

Sincerely,



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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/washington-secrets/3102656/pentagon-toxicology-testing-beagles-draws-fire/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/4717623-the-pentagon-is-conducting-cruel-unneeded-experiments-on-dogs-it-needs-to-stop/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.darpa.mil/program/microphysiological-systems>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2024-04-17/veterans-affairs-animal-testing-experiments-dogs-cats-13581219.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://wjla.com/features/i-team/va-cat-experiments-us-department-of-veterans-affairs-white-coat-waste-project-investigation-nih-dogs-animals-congress>

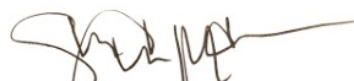
<sup>9</sup> <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-to-conduct-in-depth-internal-review-of-existing-canine-research-projects/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://youngkim.house.gov/2024/07/29/rep-young-kim-leads-bipartisan-push-for-details-on-dod-dog-and-cat-experimentation/>



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress




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Brian Fitzpatrick  
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Young Kim  
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
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Josh Gottheimer  
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David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



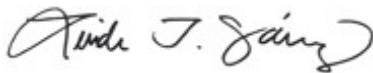
Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



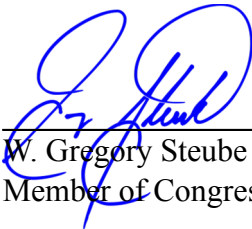
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



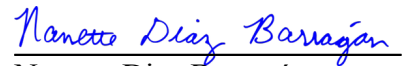
Lois Frankel  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



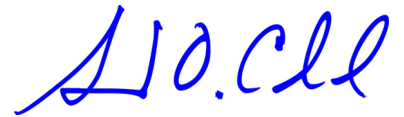
W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



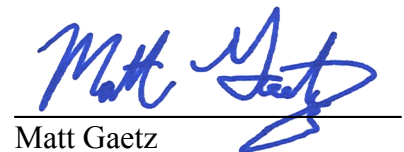
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Matt Gaetz  
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