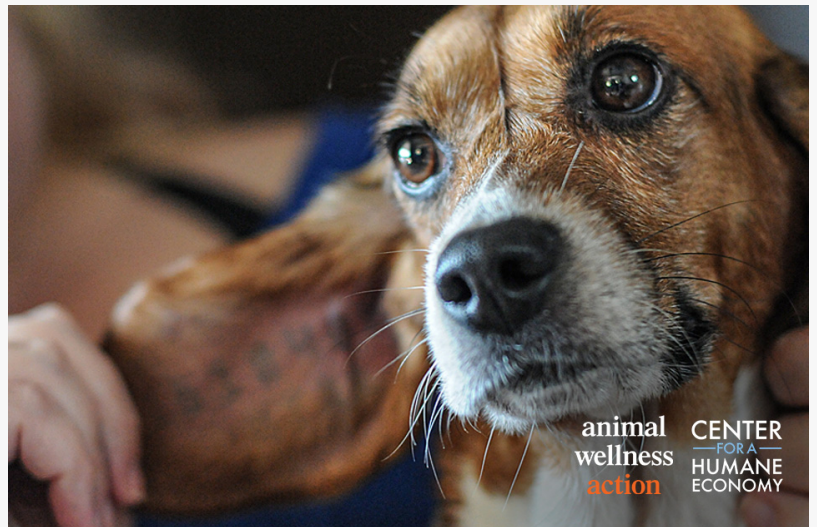


Senate HELP Committee Passes Food and Drug Legislative Package, Including Provision to Lift FDA Animal Testing Mandate

FDA Modernization Act rider will spare animals, drive down drug prices, and produce safer treatments and cures

WASHINGTON D.C., UNITED STATES, June 15, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In a legislative action that has the potential in the coming years to prevent the use of millions of animals and to deliver safer, more effective drugs to countless patients in need of treatments, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) passed the FDA Modernization Act as a rider to a larger package of FDA-related reforms (S. 4348).



Beagles are often used for medical testing because their compliant personalities better withstand the grueling experiments.

The FDA Modernization Act is included as Section 501 in a legislative package known as the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Landmark Advancements Act of 2022, S. 4348. The U.S. House of Representatives last week overwhelmingly passed its FDA legislative package in a landslide vote of 392 – 28.

Senate and House health committee leaders noted that Democrats and Republicans united in 2021 to introduce the FDA Modernization Act, H.R. 2565 and S. 2952, to reform our drug approval process and to drive the use of non-animal testing methods. Addressing the category of testing that results in the use of vast numbers of animals, larger than any other category of animal testing.

“Leaders of the House and Senate from both parties, recognize that the United States must lift an archaic animal-testing mandate for drug development and replace that strategy with 21st-century methods grounded on human biology,” said Wayne Pacelle, president of [Animal Wellness Action](#). “This is the biggest policy development in Congressional history on the fight to replace animal testing with morally and scientifically superior methods.”



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*Wayne Pacelle, president,
Animal Wellness Action*

HELP Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Ranking Member Richard Burr, R-N.C., were active supporters of this provision. AWA singled out the bill’s cosponsors, led by Senators Rand Paul, R-Ky., and Cory Booker, D-N.J., along with Mike Braun, R-Ind., Ben Ray Lujan, D-N.M., John Kennedy, R-La., Susan Collins, R-Maine, Marco Rubio, R-Fla., Alex Padilla, D-Calif., Angus King, I-Maine, Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., and Bernie Sanders I-Vt. for helping lead the effort to move the legislation forward.

“The FDA Modernization Act would accelerate innovation

and get safer, more effective drugs to market more quickly by cutting red tape that is not supported by current science,” said U.S. Senator Rand Paul, R-Ky. It would also prevent the needless suffering and death of animal test subjects—which is something I think both Republican and Democrats can agree needs to end.”

“Thanks to modern scientific innovation, the use of animal toxicity testing for experimental drugs has become increasingly obsolete,” said Senator Cory Booker, D-NJ. “This legislation will eliminate unnecessary suffering for countless animals when scientifically reliable alternative testing methods are available.”

Our drug development paradigm, framed by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act (FFDCA) of 1938, relies on animal tests for safety and efficacy evaluation. Data show that it typically takes 10 to 15 years and an average investment of \$1 billion and up to \$6 billion for a new drug. Animal tests are non-predictive of the human response to drugs, failing in 95 percent of cases when they go to human clinical trials. This antiquated process of pharmaceutical innovation slows delivery of palliatives and cures for patient groups, drives up drug costs, and sacrifices countless animals, including mice, rats, dogs, and non-human primates.

“We applaud the Senate HELP Committee for taking action to move drug development into the 21st Century and include this important statute change to allow for innovation which will speed drug development, and bring much needed cures to Americans, said Gary K. Michelson, M.D., Founder and Co-chair, Michelson Center for Public Policy. “The most predictive technologies in existence should be available to drug sponsors to provide the safest and most effective medicines for patients.”

“We are already on the verge of the next phase of modern drug development, and FDA modernization will be the catalyst for this transition to modern science,” noted Tamara Drake, director of research and regulatory policy at the [Center for a Humane Economy](#).

“Drug testing requirements have not kept pace with scientific innovation, and both the public

and animals have suffered for it," said PETA Senior Vice President of Laboratory Investigations Kathy Guillermo.

The Center for a Humane Economy, Animal Wellness Action, the Animal Wellness Foundation, the Michelson Center for Public Policy, SPCA International, National Medical Association, Emulate Inc., PETA, Citizens for Alternatives to Animal Research and Experimentation, Phoenix Zones Initiative, the National Medical Association, the National Hispanic Medical Association, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Emulate, Nortis Bio, Beyond Celiac, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the United Leukodystrophy Foundation, Myositis Association, SPCA International, the Progressive Animal Welfare Society, and Pasado's Safe Haven were among more than 150 organizations and businesses that endorsed the FDA Modernization Act.

Animal Wellness Action is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards forbidding cruelty. We champion causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife. We advocate for policies to stop dogfighting and cockfighting and other forms of malicious cruelty and to confront factory farming and other systemic forms of animal exploitation. To prevent cruelty, we promote enacting good public policies and we work to enforce those policies. To enact good laws, we must elect good lawmakers, and that's why we remind voters which candidates care about our issues and which ones don't. We believe helping animals helps us all.

The Center for a Humane Economy is a non-profit organization that focuses on influencing the conduct of corporations to forge a humane economic order. The first organization of its kind in the animal protection movement, the Center encourages businesses to honor their social responsibilities in a culture where consumers, investors, and other key stakeholders abhor cruelty and the degradation of the environment and embrace innovation as a means of eliminating both.

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