



November 18, 2019

The Hon. Kathleen Rice
U.S. House of Representatives
2435 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rice,

On behalf of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society and our membership throughout the United States, we are writing to convey our endorsement of and strong support for your legislation, the Humane Retirement Act (H.R. 2850, 116th).

If enacted into law, this important legislation would ensure that entities receiving federal funds to conduct experiments on cats and dogs would begin making reasonable efforts to find parties to adopt these animals after they are no longer being used in research.

Similar State Laws Show A Federal Solution Is Needed

Approximately 59,000 dogs and 19,000 cats are used in biomedical experiments in the United States every year. As of this writing, nine U.S. states¹ have enacted post-research adoption laws that are substantially similar in spirit and intent to H.R. 2850.

While we strongly support these state-level bills, U.S. Department of Agriculture data shows that over 88% of the dogs (52,321) and over 76% of cats (14,609) used in medical experiments are located in states that do not have any post-research adoption laws. As such, federal legislation is needed to ensure dogs and cats throughout the United States have the same opportunity for adoption that the 12,889 dogs and 5,235 cats located in states with post-research adoption laws currently have.

Statement of Support from Dr. John Gluck

Dr. John Gluck, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of New Mexico and Research Professor of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University shares our support for this bill, stating on November 18, 2019:

¹Minnesota passed Minn. Stat. Ann. § 135A.191, which became effective on July 1, 2015; Nevada passed Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 574.205, which became effective on October 1, 2015; California passed Cal. Educ. Code § 66017.7, which became effective on January 1, 2016; Connecticut passed Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-150e, which became effective on June 1, 2016; New York passed N.Y. Educ. Law § 239-b, which became effective on September 15, 2016; Illinois passed 510 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 93/10, which became effective on January 1, 2018; Delaware passed Del. Code Ann. tit. 16, § 3092F, which became effective on June 20, 2018; Maryland passed Md. Code Ann., Agric. § 15-101, which became effective on October 1, 2018; Rhode Island passed 4 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 4-27-2, which became effective on July 2, 2018.



“As a scientist involved in animal research for over 30 years, I strongly support passage of the Humane Retirement Act. If enacted into law, this bill would move the post-research treatment of dogs and cats away from dependance on occasional luck and happenstance to an ethical obligation grounded in respect, gratitude, and human decency. I urge Congress to pass H.R.2850 in its current form.”

H.R. 2850 Saves Taxpayer Dollars

Aside from the benefits for the animals, it is important to note that enactment of The Humane Retirement Act will ensure that taxpayer dollars are not unnecessarily spent to pay for the euthanasia and disposal of these cats and dogs, which are costs routinely covered with federal grant funding.

We applaud you and your staff for your leadership on this important issue, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues in support of passage of the Humane Retirement Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MR", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Michael Ryan
Director, Government Affairs
New England Anti-Vivisection Society