



**Biotechnology Innovation Organization**  
1201 New York Ave NW  
Suite 1300  
Washington, DC, 20005

January 24, 2024

Chair Miller and Members of the  
House Agriculture Committee  
PO Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

Chair Miller and Members:

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) thanks the committee for the opportunity to comment in opposition to HB 4849, legislation that proposes to regulate the use of dogs and cats in research and establish standards governing such use.

BIO is the world's largest trade association representing biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations. Our members are committed to advancing science and improving the health and well-being of our planet using biotechnology.

Animal research, including studies conducted on cats and dogs, plays a vital role in advancing scientific knowledge and developing new treatments and therapies. It provides valuable insights into the mechanisms of diseases and the efficacy of potential treatments. Prohibiting such research would limit our ability to understand diseases, test potential treatments, and improve human and animal health.

Furthermore, it is important to note that there are already stringent federal laws and regulations in place to ensure the ethical treatment of animals in research. The Animal Welfare Act, enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides guidelines and oversight to ensure the humane treatment of animals used in research. These laws and regulations ensure that animals are treated with care and respect, minimizing any potential harm.

Additionally, the prohibition of cats and dogs in animal research would have a significant impact on job opportunities and economic development. The biotechnology industry contributes significantly to the economy through job creation, revenue generation, and technological advancements. Restricting animal research would hinder the growth of this industry, leading to potential economic losses and reduced job opportunities for scientists, researchers, technicians, and support staff.

Moreover, the advancement of innovation in biotechnology heavily relies on animal research. It plays a crucial role in developing new drugs, vaccines, and medical devices. By restricting research on cats and dogs, the development of innovative biotechnological solutions may be hindered, leading to slower progress in medical breakthroughs and the improvement of human and animal health.

BIO and its members thank you for the opportunity to weigh in with our oppositions to HB 4849 and urge a no vote. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information.

Thank you,

/S/

Lilly Melander  
Director, State Government Affairs – Midwestern Region  
The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)