NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY
444 N. WELLS ST., SUITE 406
CHICAGO, IL 60654
PHONE: (312) 427-6065
FAX: (312) 427-6524
EMAIL: NAVS@NAVS.ORG
WEB: WWW.NAVS.ORG

Subject: Support for HSB 58 – Advancing Ethical and Responsible Research

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Shipley and members of the House Committee on Higher Education,

On behalf of the Iowa-based supporters of the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS), an organization committed to advancing science without harming animals, we strongly urge you to **support House Study Bill 58 (HSB 58)**. This critical legislation ensures responsible use of state funds, enhances transparency in taxpayer-funded animal research, and prioritizes humane treatment of animals used in scientific studies.

Ensuring Responsible Use of State Funds

Iowa taxpayers deserve to know how their money is being spent, particularly when it comes to research conducted on animals in state-funded facilities. HSB 58 establishes essential safeguards to prevent the misuse of public funds by prohibiting state money from being used for painful or distressing experiments categorized as Category D or E by the USDA.

Research conducted under these categories often subjects animals to significant pain, suffering, and distress—sometimes without the use of pain relief. Given that numerous studies have shown that animal models frequently fail to accurately predict human outcomes, allocating state funds toward these experiments is not only ethically questionable but also scientifically unsound. It is imperative that public funding supports innovative, human-relevant research models rather than outdated methods that have repeatedly failed to translate into meaningful medical advancements.

No Animal Should Suffer in Experiments That Yield Few Human Benefits

Despite decades of reliance on animal testing, studies show that the majority of drugs and treatments that pass preclinical animal trials ultimately fail in human clinical trials due to differences in physiology and disease manifestation between species. The inefficacy of these models underscores the urgent need to shift toward human-relevant research techniques, such as organ-on-a-chip technology, 3D tissue models, and computational methods, rather than continuing to subject animals to painful and unnecessary experiments.

HSB 58 reflects a scientific and ethical shift in research by ensuring that state funds are used in a way that prioritizes human health advancements while reducing animal suffering.

NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY
444 N. WELLS ST., SUITE 406
CHICAGO, IL 60654
PHONE: (312) 427-6065
FAX: (312) 427-6524
EMAIL: NAVS@NAVS.ORG
WEB: WWW.NAVS.ORG

Transparency Is Critical – Public & Legislative Oversight Needed

Currently, research facilities operate under a veil of secrecy, making it nearly impossible for the public or lawmakers to assess whether animal welfare standards are being met. Section 7 of HSB 58, which requires an annual animal research report, is vital to changing this.

The USDA's existing reporting mechanisms are incomplete, failing to provide a full picture of how animals are used in research. This lack of transparency has prompted an increase in state-level legislation aimed at ensuring proper oversight. The public and lawmakers have a right to know:

- How many animals are used in state-funded research,
- The types of procedures they undergo,
- The funding sources supporting these projects, and
- What happens to animals when they are no longer needed for experiments.

This basic level of transparency is crucial for holding research institutions accountable to both their own stated welfare policies and the ethical expectations of taxpayers and lawmakers. Without these disclosures, facilities can continue harmful practices unchecked, operating in direct contrast to the growing demand for humane and scientifically valid research methods.

HSB 58 is a Step Toward Ethical & Effective Science

NAVS urges you to support HSB 58 to ensure **responsible use of state resources, transparency in taxpayer-funded research, and a commitment to humane science**. This bill aligns with scientific progress, fiscal responsibility, and public values—all of which should guide the future of research in Iowa.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We hope you will stand with Iowa taxpayers, animals, and ethical science by voting **YES on HSB 58.**

Sincerely,



Meredith Blanchard
Senior Manager, Advocacy and Policy
National Anti-Vivisection Society
mblanchard@NAVS.org