

May 24, 2004

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
104-Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), a member organization of the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR), I am writing to express my sincere thanks to you for holding the hearing entitled "Animal Rights – Activism vs. Criminality" on May 18, 2004. Your leadership on this issue is very much appreciated by the biomedical research community. The AAMC represents the nation's 126 accredited allopathic medical schools, 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, and more than 105,000 faculty through 96 academic and scientific societies.

For many years, institutions and companies conducting research with animals have been in the crosshairs of animal extremists. We applaud you for not only recognizing the important contribution that animals make to life-saving research, but the risk that animal extremists pose to researchers, their families, and employees.

The May 18 hearing afforded our community a valuable opportunity to tell our story through personal experiences. The testimony that you heard represents but a small part of what many in biomedical research experience every day. As you remarked during the hearing, this research is of tremendous importance, and we strongly believe that Congress should do everything in its power to give law enforcement the tools it needs to protect research and related third-parties from those extremists who are willing to use violence and intimidation to impose their will.

Again, we appreciate your willingness to hold this hearing to shed light on the terror that is being inflicted by animal extremists. Through NABR, we look forward to working with you on this issue in the future.

Sincerely,

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.