



**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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June 12, 2018

The Honorable David Perdue  
United States Senate  
455 Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Perdue:

I am writing on behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to ask for your support in amending the frequency of required inspections under §2146 (a) of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) through the 2018 Farm Bill. The suggested change to the AWA would improve inspection efficiency while maintaining an unwavering commitment to institutional compliance with the AWA Regulations.

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. Its members are all 151 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems; and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their more than 173,000 full-time faculty members, 89,000 medical students, 129,000 resident physicians, and more than 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

In 2017, the AAMC joined with the National Association for Biomedical Research, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, and the Council on Governmental Relations, in coordinating a workshop to examine ways to more effectively regulate the care and use of research animals. Among the recommendations included in the final report from the workshop was reform of the mandated annual inspection schedule to permit the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to focus on areas and programs that present the highest risk for compliance concerns. Our goal was, and remains, to ensure that the regulatory infrastructure enables facilities to more effectively provide care for and to protect the welfare of the animals used in life-saving medical research. We would appreciate your support of this revision to help move USDA toward a risk-based model, which also would preserve a strong commitment to animal welfare.

Senator Perdue  
June 12, 2018  
Page 2

The AAMC is grateful for your consideration of this recommendation and hopes to continue working with you as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen D. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'F'.

Karen Fisher, J.D.  
Chief Public Policy Officer

cc: Christa Wagner, Ph.D.