

October 16, 2015

The Honorable Rod Blum  
United State House of Representatives  
213 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Blum:

The undersigned organizations, representing scientific societies, research institutions, and industry are pleased to support your bill, H.R.3136, the Enforcement Transparency Act.

We commend you for your leadership and vision in recognizing the importance of ensuring transparency in the enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). In particular, we are especially grateful for the provision requiring that the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the formulation of penalties for violations of the AWA be publicly available on USDA's official website. This bill will provide the research community and the public a much greater understanding of how penalties are calculated for enforcement actions by the department.

The essential element of this bill is the emphasis on transparent government. Public release of the penalty table for noncompliance is consistent with the government's commitment to transparency and accountability.

Recognizing the urgency of finalizing the bill before the end of the 114th Congress, we urge all House Members to co-sponsor H.R.3136 and we call upon House leadership to bring the bill to the floor for consideration as quickly as possible.

Again, we thank you and your staff for your efforts to encourage government transparency and medical progress and we look forward to continued work with you as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR)  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology (AAN)  
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)  
American Association of Universities (AAU)  
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP)  
American Neurological Association (ANA)  
American Psychological Association (APA)

American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP)  
Americans for Medical Progress (AMP)  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)  
Association of Primate Veterinarians (APV)  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)  
Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY)  
Baylor College of Medicine  
California Biomedical Research Association (CBRA)  
Cedars-Sinai Health System  
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
The College on Problems of Drug Dependence  
Columbia University Medical Center  
Comparative Biosciences, Inc.  
Cornell University  
Council On Government Relations (COGR)  
Covance Laboratories  
Drexel University  
Duke University School of Medicine  
Emory University  
Fran Associates  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)  
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute  
Massachusetts Society for Medical Research (MSMR)  
Michigan Society for Medical Research (MISMR)  
Montana State University  
New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research (NJABR)  
New York University  
North American Science Associates, Inc. (NAMSA)  
North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research (NCABR)  
Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR)  
Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research (PSBR)  
RxGen, Inc.  
Sinclair Research Center, LLC  
Smithers Avanza  
Society for Neuroscience (SfN)  
Society for the Study of Reproduction  
Sol Del Mar, Inc.  
Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research (SwAEBR)  
SRI International  
States United for Biomedical Research (SUBR)  
Surgical Infection Society  
Texas Society for Biomedical Research (TSBR)  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of Arizona  
University of New Mexico  
University of South Alabama College of Medicine  
University of South Carolina  
The University of Texas System  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine  
Wayne State University