



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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May 15, 2018

The Honorable David Rouzer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Rep. Rouzer:

I am writing on behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to thank you for your recent amendment to H.R. 2 to update the frequency of required inspections under §2146 (a) of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). 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 appreciate your amendment, which would help move USDA closer toward this risk-based model, while preserving a strong commitment to animal welfare.

The AAMC is grateful for your leadership and looks forward to continuing to work with you as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher".

Karen Fisher, J.D.
Chief Public Policy Officer