

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