We invite you to join us in a letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies requesting report language instructing NIH to finally collect and publish the number of animals used in agency-funded experiments. This effort is crucial to ensuring that research and testing are transparent and accountable to taxpayers.

While the governments of other countries—including the United Kingdom, Canada, and the entire European Union—collect and publish detailed information on how many animals are used in research and testing, the United States lags far behind. Estimates of the number of animals used each year in U.S. laboratories vary widely—from 10 million to 110 million—and the vast majority of those animals are used by federally funded labs. The drastic difference in estimates underscores the clear need for accurate reporting.

The scientific community has a stated commitment to the three Rs of replacement, reduction, and refinement of the use of animals in biomedical research. Integral to that commitment are the accurate counting of animals used in research and testing and the accurate reporting of NIH funding dedicated to grants involving animals. We are unable to measure our progress toward advancing the three Rs without an accurate count of the number of animals utilized each year.

We urge you to join us in this important effort to track the use of animals in NIH research, the first step toward eventually reducing their use in situations where alternatives exist. To sign on, fill out this form by COB April 8th. If you have any questions, please contact Cory Maks-Solomon (Cory.Maks-Solomon@mail.house.gov) in Congressman Hastings’s office.

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress  

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress  

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress  

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress  

Member of Congress  
Member of Congress