

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

January 22, 2023

RE: HB 4989

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a Veterinarian for over 30 years; 20 years as a Laboratory Animal Veterinarian. Please allow me to provide information regarding why I oppose HB 4989.

The use of animals in research is highly regulated through United States government agencies (United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare). In addition, an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is mandated by federal and local regulatory funding agencies to oversee all research, teaching and testing involving animals at each research facility. Research facilities go above and beyond the government requirements for animal welfare and voluntarily receive a third-party assessment that evaluates the research facility on the adherence to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, as well as other published animal welfare standards and internal standards and practices. An additional layer of regulatory assessment of an animal care program, is not needed. The oversight research facilities already receive provides more than adequate assurance of the program's regulatory compliance.



## Campus Animal Resources

Office of  
**RESEARCH  
REGULATORY  
SUPPORT**

Michigan State  
University  
4000 Collins Rd. Suite  
155  
Lansing, MI 48910  
517-353-5064  
carinfo@msu.edu

There are numerous examples of medical advancements resulting from animal research. These advancements not only provide a benefit for humans, but our companion animals have also benefited. This includes advancements in surgical techniques, medicine, vaccines, and diagnostics. I encourage you to review the many contributions our research animals have done to improve the life and welfare of humans as well as the health of our companion animals.

<https://fbresearch.org/love-animals-support-animal-research>

With regards to pain and distress, an essential part of veterinary medical care is the recognition, prevention, and alleviation of pain and distress. As it is considered that animals perceive pain similar to humans, it is ethically and scientifically imperative that the appropriate use of anesthetics, tranquilizers, analgesics, and nonpharmacologic intervention is provided to our research animals so that those procedures deemed as more than slight or momentary pain, are alleviated. Laboratory animal medicine utilizes trained and experienced

veterinarians, as well as other highly trained personnel (licensed veterinary technicians, certified animal care staff, appropriately trained research staff) to care for and have the knowledge to recognize pain and distress.

Veterinary care includes the assessment and monitoring of an animal's wellbeing. This includes the evaluation of all preoperative, surgical and postoperative procedures performed on animals. In addition to veterinarians, the IACUC, and other laboratory animal professional's play a vital role in the ethical conduct of research and the adherence to the Federal regulations governing the use of animals. As veterinarians, we express compassion for all animals, are committed to their well-being and are dedicated in providing the most appropriate care for the animals we attend. Verbiage used in the HB 4849, would hinder/eliminate further advancements in science and disease prevention for humans as well as our companion animals.

Sincerely,

Danielle R. Ferguson DVM, MS  
Attending Veterinarian/Director, Campus Animal Resources  
Michigan State University