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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2025

The Honorable Jay Bhattacharya
Director, National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Bhattacharya,

Thank you for the work you and President Trump are doing to bring accountability, transparency, and responsibility to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We are writing to express our serious concern about using taxpayer dollars to fund animal experiments outside the United States. It is deeply concerning that American taxpayer dollars have been used to fund harmful and abusive animal experiments overseas that lack the same oversight and accountability as labs here in the United States. This includes little to no inspections at the facilities where the research is conducted, as well as where the animals are housed and how they are treated. There is also inadequate auditing of foreign NIH-funded animal studies, resulting in significant gaps in oversight and accountability of how taxpayer dollars are being used.

Despite these concerns, from 2011 to 2021, NIH awarded over \$2.2 billion in grants for research in 45 different countries.¹ These funds supported a range of disturbing and often unnecessary, animal experiments, including:

- Genetically manipulating cats to be born with deformed legs.²
- Infecting bats with a dangerous disease transmissible to—and nearly always fatal in—humans.³
- Force-feeding mice human feces, causing alcohol addiction, infecting them with gonorrhea, and more.⁴

This situation represents a serious misuse of taxpayer dollars and the unnecessary suffering of animals. It is a waste of resources that should be allocated to more ethical and effective research practices that do not involve animals.

This Congress, we introduced [H.R. 1085](#) and [S. 1802](#), the Cease Animal Research Grants Overseas (CARGO) Act, to permanently end the practice of NIH funding animal experiments in foreign laboratories. As we work with President Trump and his administration to diligently ensure that taxpayer dollars are no longer allocated to unethical and inadequately regulated research overseas, we urge you to take immediate action to institute a ban on any NIH funding for animal experiments conducted outside the United States.

We look forward to your swift action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress

Rick Scott
United States Senator

¹ <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-105736>

² <https://reporter.nih.gov/search/3ZpubLcrnkmVlrW4pRH6qg/project-details/9985991>

³ <https://reporter.nih.gov/search/md9fjLUaRk-23KNib-jZRO/project-details/10618969>

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7914199/pdf/nihms-1668741.pdf>