

April 6, 2026

The Honorable John Hunt, Chair
The Honorable John Potucek, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Affairs
New Hampshire House of Representatives
Concord, NH

Subject: SB 444, Prohibiting the Use of Animal Testing/*Inexpedient to Legislate*

Dear Chair Hunt, Vice Chair Potucek & Members of the Committee on Commerce & Consumer Affairs:

I write on behalf of the Animal Health Institute (AHI) to respectfully oppose SB 444 and request an Inexpedient to Legislate vote. AHI is the U.S. trade association for research-based manufacturers of animal health products – the medicines that keep pets, service animals, and livestock healthy.

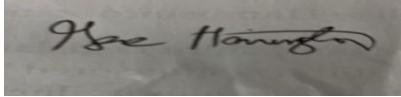
SB 444 overlooks the underlying point of [Anderson Cooper's recent 60 Minutes](#) segment about the importance and benefits of animal testing and research in the development of human and animal drugs, specifically using dogs in studying Alzheimer's and ways to treat the devastating disease in both humans and canines. **It would have been impossible to have developed the Alzheimer's drug for dogs discussed at the end of the segment without doing animal research and testing. Indeed, AHI is not aware of a single animal drug or vaccine that has been developed or commercialized exclusively through non-animal testing methods, without any form of animal testing in preclinical development.**

Legislatures in California and Maryland have rejected legislation almost identical to SB 444 and instead approved more workable definitions of key terms that - unlike SB 444 - allow for important animal and human drug and vaccine development work. Pasted below are the definitions of key terms such as "medical research", "testing facility", and "traditional animal test method", that California adopted. Furthermore, no New England state has enacted anything remotely like SB 444, so enactment of such restrictive legislation would put New Hampshire at a significant disadvantage in recruiting life sciences companies to the state.

In closing, AHI must reiterate that animal health industry is unique among industries that use animals for research in that the sector is making products for use in animals. As such, those products must be tested on the target animal. Moreover, the use of animals is required by the regulatory agencies which approve animal health products. While the animal health industry will continue to work on reducing the need for animal testing, some amount will always be required because we are making products to improve the health and welfare of animals. **As such, we urge you to vote SB 444 Inexpedient to Legislate because it would simply create unnecessary confusion.**

I appreciate your time and consideration of AHI's opposition to SB 444 and urge you to contact me at gharrington@ahi.org or (202) 549-5934 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Gene Harrington
Senior Director, State Affairs
Animal Health Institute

California Definitions of “Medical Research”, Testing Facility”, and Traditional Animal Test Method”

[Bill Text - AB-357 Animal test methods: alternatives.](#)

(6) “Medical research” means research related to the causes, diagnosis, treatment, control, or prevention of physical or mental diseases and impairments of humans and animals or related to the development of biomedical products, devices, or drugs as defined in Section 321(g)(1) of Title 21 of the United States Code. Medical research does not include the testing of an ingredient that was formerly used in a drug, tested for the drug use with traditional animal methods to characterize the ingredient and to substantiate its safety for human use, and is now proposed for use in a product other than a biomedical product, medical device, or drug.

(3) “Contract testing facility” means any partnership, corporation, association, or other legal relationship that tests chemicals, ingredients, product formulations, or products in this state.

(8) “Traditional animal test method” means a process or procedure using animals to obtain information on the characteristics of a chemical or agent and that generates information regarding the ability of a chemical or agent to produce a specific biological effect under specified conditions.