

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

JENNIFER B. BOYSKO
33RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT
PART OF FAIRFAX AND LOUDOUN COUNTIES

P.O. Box 247
HERNDON, VA 20172
703-437-0086



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
GENERAL LAWS AND TECHNOLOGY
JUDICIARY
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Karen Harrison, district33@senate.virginia.gov, Jimmy Rogers, district37@senate.virginia.gov, and Chad Monday, district20@senate.virginia.gov

Joint Statement from Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33), Sen. Bill Stanley (R-20), and Sen. David Marsden (D-37):

Senate Patrons Celebrate Passage of Seven Landmark Research Animal Protection Bills

Greetings,

Please see the joint statement below from Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33), Sen. Bill Stanley (R-20), and Sen. David Marsden (D-37) regarding the passage of Senate research animal protection bills [SB 87](#), [SB 88](#), [SB 90](#), [SB 442](#), [SB 457](#), [SB 535](#), and [SB 604](#).

“Today, the Virginia Senate sent a strong message that facilities in our state that breed dogs and cats for experimental purposes are not above the law. As chief patrons of the seven research animal protection bills that passed the Senate floor yesterday and today, we are proud to lead the bipartisan effort to hold Envigo accountable for the troubling conditions and mistreatment of beagles at its Cumberland breeding facility.

“It’s been a multi-year effort, and we continue to stand with Virginians, expressing our concern about the welfare of thousands of beagle dogs and puppies whose plight was recently exposed thanks to shocking undercover footage and dozens of U.S. Department of Agriculture citations, including for the deaths from “unknown causes” of 300 puppies, failure to provide veterinary care for illness and injuries, depriving nursing mother dogs of adequate food, and more.

“The facility has been operating under the radar and without state oversight since 1961. Virginia has always been a leader on animal welfare legislation, so it was vital for us to

take meaningful action for these animals. Our bills, if passed by our colleagues in the House, will implement reporting requirements and state oversight, mandate adoption of animals deemed “surplus” by Envigo, ensure that documented violations of the Animal Welfare Act have real consequences, and more. Virginia has been responsible for ignoring this mess for a long time, and we are not going to leave that stain on the Commonwealth. Passing these bills is the fair, right, and just thing to do.”

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