

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2025

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

Dear Dr. Bhattacharya,

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) continued use of taxpayer dollars to fund animal experimentation in foreign laboratories, often under conditions that fall far short of U.S. standards for animal welfare and scientific integrity.

Between 2011 and 2021, the NIH awarded approximately \$2.2 billion in federal grants and contracts to foreign institutions for research involving animals. These funds supported nearly 1,300 projects at some 200 institutions across 45 countries. Unlike research conducted within the United States, foreign laboratories are not bound by the same rigorous animal welfare laws, oversight mechanisms, or transparency requirements. As a result, many of these overseas experiments have been linked to serious cases of animal abuse, scientific fraud, and medical malpractice.

Compounding this issue is the lack of standardized audits and oversight for NIH-funded animal research conducted abroad. We have very little to no information about the number of animals being used, the conditions in which they are housed, or the nature or invasiveness of the experiments they are subject to. This opacity not only poses a threat to animal welfare but also undermines the reproducibility and reliability of taxpayer-funded science.

Such practices represent a clear misuse of public funds and underscore the urgent need for greater accountability and ethical responsibility in federally supported research. That is why we introduced **H.R. 1085** and **S. 1802**, the **Cease Animal Research Grants Overseas (CARGO) Act**, which would prohibit the NIH from funding animal experiments in foreign countries. While we work to advance this important piece of legislation in Congress, we strongly urge the NIH to take immediate executive action in the meantime to end the Agency's support for animal experiments abroad.

We greatly appreciate your timely attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator