

# Please Cosponsor the Bipartisan Cease Animal Research Grants Overseas (CARGO) Act (HR 4757) to Stop the Funding of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse at Foreign Laboratories



July 2023



The CARGO Act (HR 4757) is sponsored by Reps. Dina Titus (D-Nev.-01) and Troy Nehls (R-Texas-22). It would prohibit the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from providing funding to foreign laboratories for experiments on animals. Between 2011 and 2021, NIH gave \$2.2 billion in taxpayer money to foreign laboratories for animal experimentation. Ninety percent of such grants are never audited by NIH, and the agency conducts no oversight or investigations into the laboratories that receive them.

## **Specifically, the CARGO Act would:**

- Prohibit NIH from offering any funds or technical assistance to any foreign activity or program that tests on live animals
- Still allow NIH to offer grants to laboratories conducting animal testing within the U.S.

Recent experiments in foreign labs funded by American taxpayers include:

- Addicting dogs to opioids and rats to cocaine
- Force-feeding highly toxic substances to beagles

- Causing strokes in monkeys
- Blinding monkeys
- Infecting pigs and hamsters with parasites
- Wounding rabbits' vocal cords and crushing their spinal cords
- Removing the eyes of mice
- Infecting bats with highly harmful viruses transmissible to humans
- Forcing mice to ingest amphetamines and alcohol
- Infecting mice with gonorrhea
- Electroshocking rats

If you would like to cosponsor this bill, please contact Dean Johnson ([dean.johnson3@mail.house.gov](mailto:dean.johnson3@mail.house.gov)) with Rep. Titus or Mike Curto ([mike.curto@mail.house.gov](mailto:mike.curto@mail.house.gov)) with Rep. Nehls.

For more information, contact George McElwee at [gmcElwee@commonwealthstrategic.com](mailto:gmcElwee@commonwealthstrategic.com).

**PETA**





### Billions of Dollars; No Oversight

Between fiscal years 2011 and 2021, NIH gave approximately \$2.2 billion to 200 foreign organizations to fund 1,357 grants and contracts involving experiments on animals. These funds went to 45 countries, including China, Russia, and others with poor animal welfare standards. NIH does not verify claims in awardees' grant applications and progress reports.

### NIH does *not*:

- Conduct inspections of foreign laboratories
- Require inspections of foreign laboratories by any local regulatory authority
- Require foreign laboratories to report violations of its own Public Health Service Policy *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*
- Require foreign laboratories to have an institutional animal care and use committee to review proposed experiments and ensure compliance with laws and regulations

This lack of oversight has resulted in the abuse of animals used in experiments funded by the American public in foreign laboratories.

### Two Decades of NIH Funding for Dubious Colombian Organizations

Between 2003 and 2023, NIH gave more than \$17 million to



Colombian organizations Caucaseco Scientific Research Center (Caucaseco) and Malaria Vaccine and Development Center (MVDC) for projects that involved malaria experiments on mice and owl monkeys, a vulnerable species. Following an exposé by PETA, Colombian government agencies launched investigations into these organizations, rescued 180 mice and 108 monkeys who were confined to filthy cages in a makeshift pen and deprived of veterinary care, shut down the facilities, filed charges—including causing harm to wildlife and lacking permits to capture and experiment on monkeys—audited the experimenters' contracts with a local funding agency, and requested the refund of public money. NIH took six months to make Caucaseco and the MVDC ineligible to receive more funding.