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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING REPUBLICAN
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Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D.
Director, National Toxicology Program
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
111 T.W. Alexander Drive
Durham, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Birnbaum,

Thank you for your work to protect public health, including promoting alternatives to animal testing to better predict human risks. I am writing to request information about this work and express concerns about a lack of transparency regarding the National Toxicology Program's (NTP) animal testing practices.

You may be aware that for over two decades, I have led efforts to minimize the use of animals in toxicity tests in favor of alternative techniques that save animals, time and money. Specifically, my legislation in 2000 made the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) a permanent body within the NTP, and I've introduced the Federal Accountability in Chemical Testing (FACT) Act during the last two Congresses to improve progress reporting requirements under this program so we can better measure its effectiveness.

I appreciate your leadership in this area. Unfortunately, I've found that it is difficult to ascertain basic details about the NTP's animal testing and to obtain appropriate data to determine whether it is meeting its mandate to reduce the wasteful and inhumane practice that most Americans now oppose.

To fill this void, in January 2019, my office asked the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to provide information about NTP's use of animal testing and alternative methods. Unfortunately, CRS was unable to collect the data because "much of the requested information is not publicly available."

Specifically, CRS reported to my office that, among other things, it could not obtain any of the following information:

- **Costs to taxpayers:** "NTP does not make information about the costs of studies, testing or the development of new testing methods publicly available."

- **Alternative tests being used:** “[NTP] does not provide a complete and verified summary of all non-animal testing activities.”
- **Animal welfare:** “[CRS] could not identify whether any studies or tests conducted by NTP would be placed in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Pain Category E.”
- **Animal use data:** “[CRS was] not able to locate how many animals, by species, were used in testing conducted by or commissioned by NTP for each year from FY2014 to FY2018. Such information is not publicly available.”

I am encouraged that ICCVAM already agrees this is a problem. In its Strategic Roadmap released last year, ICCVAM noted a current lack of appropriate metrics “for prioritizing activities, monitoring progress, and measuring success” and wrote that “effective metrics need to be created to track progress and identify objective criteria for measuring success.”

Attached are the questions that I sent to CRS which they were unable to sufficiently answer. I respectfully request that the NTP provide all of this information to my office by August 9, 2019. This information is critical to Congress performing its oversight functions to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used judiciously, laws are being followed and animals are being treated humanely.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress

Animal use

- How many animals, by species, were used in testing conducted by or commissioned by NTP each year from FY14-FY18?
- Please list all traditional animal tests that NTP currently conducts and/or commissions.
- For each animal test:
 - How many animals are used?
 - What species?
 - Cost to taxpayers?
 - Length of test from initiation to completion
- Does NTP conduct or commission tests that would be placed in USDA Pain Category E? If so, please list test names.
- Detail the process by which animal tests are considered for replacement with non-animal alternatives.

Alternative non-animal tests

- Please list all non-animal tests that NTP currently conducts and/or commissions.
- For each non-animal test:
 - What traditional animal tests do they replace (if applicable)?
 - Cost to taxpayers?
 - Length of test from initiation to completion
- List all NTP animal tests that have been replaced with non-animal tests between FY14 and FY18
- Detail the process by which an alternative test is adopted by NTP.

Costs

- How much taxpayer money did NTP **spend to conduct or commission animal testing** each year from FY14-FY18?
- How much taxpayer money did NTP **spend to conduct or commission non-animal testing during** each year from FY14-FY18?
- How much taxpayer money did NTP **spend on the development of non-animal testing** each year from FY14-FY18?

Total testing

- How many different substances were tested by NTP in FY18?
- How many different tests were performed?
- Of all NTP testing in FY18, how many tests conducted or commissioned were animal tests versus non-animal tests?

Transparency and accountability

- Animal use: Is there currently a way for Congress and the public to see how many animals are used each year in NTP testing?
- Cost to taxpayers: Is there currently a way for Congress and the public to see how much taxpayer money was spent on NTP animal testing?
- How does NTP objectively and quantitatively assess its progress towards replacing animal tests with non-animal alternatives?