

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2020

The Honorable Dr. Stephen M. Hahn
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Dear Commissioner Hahn:

We are encouraged to see that you are supporting the work of the FDA's Alternative Methods Working Group, whose mission is to promote the development and regulatory use of new technologies such as organs-on-a-chip that can improve drug testing and help reduce animal testing. We applaud the great work that the FDA is doing in conjunction with companies and other federal agencies to develop effective treatments and vaccines, including important ongoing work to fight COVID-19, and we believe that the work of this Working Group could be helpful to this process.

Specifically, the FDA's dog testing requirement for drug makers has been questioned recently by industry and scientists, particularly given the emergence of alternative technologies. We understand that the Working Group is launching a new webinar series to educate FDA scientists on cutting edge technologies, including alternative tests, which we support. In describing the work of the Working Group and alternative tests, FDA notes: "These advances may help bring FDA-regulated products to market faster, with improved efficacy, or prevent products with increased toxicological risk from reaching the market. Also critical is the potential for these advances to replace, reduce, and/or refine animal testing." Through the Working Group, we encourage FDA to prioritize finding alternatives to drug testing on dogs.

We look forward to following the progress of the Working Group, and hope that you will consider our request. Thank you for your continued efforts to improve the drug approval process and to ensure that safe and effective treatments for diseases, including COVID-19, reach patients as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Martha McSally
United States Senator