

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

February 4, 2022

Dr. Nora D. Volkow  
Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse  
National Institutes of Health  
301 North Stonestreet Ave  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Volkow —

We are writing to express concerns about puppies being injected with cocaine in abusive, expensive and unnecessary taxpayer-funded experiments commissioned by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

According to government databases and documents obtained via Freedom of Information Act requests by the nonpartisan White Coat Waste Project, from March 2020 until September 2021 NIDA spent roughly \$2.5 million of taxpayers' money on cruel tests on six-month-old beagle puppies.<sup>1,2</sup> These tests entailed force-feeding puppies an experimental drug and injecting them with cocaine to study the interaction between the two compounds.

The documents state that the supposed purpose of these cocaine experiments on puppies was to generate a report that “may be submitted by NIDA to the FDA.” However, the FDA itself has recently indicated that it “does not mandate that human drugs be studied in dogs.”<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless, despite the FDA’s assertion, these NIDA documents state that, “this study is required by a relevant government regulatory agency.”

We are concerned that NIDA is spending tax dollars on dog testing that is cruel, costly, outdated and that the FDA has claimed is unnecessary.

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<sup>1</sup> NIH contract no. HHSN271201800019I:

[https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT\\_IDV\\_75N95018G00019\\_7529](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_IDV_75N95018G00019_7529)

(Contract tasks 75N95020F00001

[\[https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT\\_AWD\\_75N95020F00001\\_7529\\_75N95018G00019\\_7529\]](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_75N95020F00001_7529_75N95018G00019_7529) and 75N95020F00002

[\[https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT\\_AWD\\_75N95020F00002\\_7529\\_75N95018G00019\\_7529\]](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_75N95020F00002_7529_75N95018G00019_7529))

<sup>2</sup> NIDA documents released via FOIA: [https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/55875\\_web.pdf](https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/55875_web.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> “Drug-testing on puppies: new report asks for alternative testing at FDA labs,” WJLA, July 11, 2021:

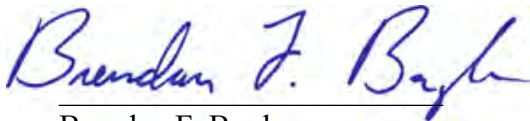
<https://wjla.com/features/i-team/animals-drug-testing-fda-labs-animals>

In light of the above, please provide the following information by February 16, 2022:

- How much taxpayer money has been spent on dog testing under contract number HHSN271201800019I to date?
- Has all dog testing being conducted under contract HHSN271201800019I been completed? If so, on what date? If not, what dog tests are still ongoing or scheduled?
- Since the FDA has stated that it does not require dog testing for new drugs, why did NIDA commission testing on puppies specifically?
- What, if anything, did NIDA do to work with the FDA to explore non-animal alternatives to meet data requirements? Please describe in detail.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt and thorough response, directed to Gianluca Nigro (Gianluca.nigro@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Boyle's office, and Madison Van Every (Madison.VanEvery@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Mace's office.


Sincerely,



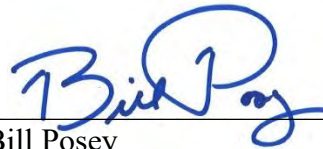
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



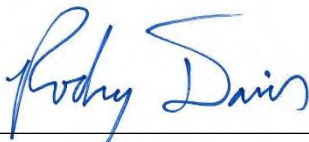
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Fred Keller  
Member of Congress



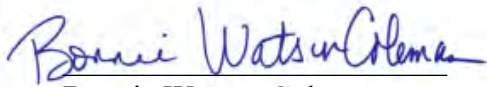
Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



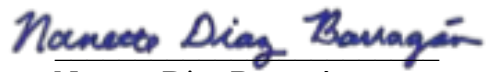
Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
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