THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

To: Chairman Michael Sirotkin and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

In Support Of: S.161
Date: February 22, 2018

My name is Barry Londeree, and I am the Vermont State Director for The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of our Vermont members and supporters in support of S.161, which requires the use, where available, of methods that avoid or reduce the use of vertebrate animals for testing of products, such as cosmetics, household cleaners, and industrial chemicals. The bill does not apply to testing done for medical research, including testing of drugs or medical devices, nor does it prohibit the use of animal tests to comply with requirements of government agencies.

HSUS strongly supports both animal protection and public health. We have active programs to promote what are known as the three R's: to ***reduce*** the number of animals used for research purposes; ***refine*** research so it causes less suffering; and ultimately ***replace*** animals with non-animal methods that are faster, less expensive and more relevant to human health than animal studies.[1]

S.161 requires manufacturers and their contract testing facilities to use test methods that replace, reduce, or refine the use of animals. Technologies will continue to improve while animal tests will always have significant limitations. By minimizing animal testing and focusing on the use of faster, cost effective, and more reliable testing methods, companies can save lives, time and money.

Modern science is rapidly moving away from outdated animal tests. Many effective alternatives to animal testing exist including 3-D printing, construction of artificial human tissue, and the generation of sophisticated computer programs that can make accurate predictions about chemical safety. With more and better data comes the promise of improved risk-based chemical assessments and more predictive information on safety. This view is supported by the head of NIH,[2] the leaders at EPA[3] and by a panel of scientists convened by the National Academy of Sciences to design a better chemical assessment program that resulted in the now seminal report: *Toxicity Testing for the 21st Century: a vision and a strategy*.[4] This

[1] See HSUS statement on animals in biomedical research, testing and education
http://www.humanesociety.org/about/policy_statements/statement_animal_research.html#.Uwth76Mo69I

[2] Dr. Francis Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health: "I predict that 10 years from now, safety testing for newly developed drugs, as well as assessment of the potential toxicity of numerous environmental exposures, will be largely carried out using human biochips that are loaded with cells accurately representing heart, liver, kidney, muscle, brain, and other tissues. This approach, made possible by the dramatic development of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells) will mostly replace animal testing for drug toxicity and environmental sensing, giving results that are more accurate, at lower cost and with higher throughput." Delivered in testimony to Congress regarding an appropriations hearing regarding the 2017 budget on April 7, 2016.

[3] Dr. Jack E. Housenger, previous Director of Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA: ""Rapid advancements in science and new technologies give us the opportunity to evaluate more pesticides across a broader range of potential effects in less time, using fewer animals and reducing costs for everyone…With these new tools, the EPA will enhance the quality of its risk assessments and risk management decisions and better ensure protection of human health and the environment from pesticide use." In a letter to stakeholders, available from the Federal Register, document number: EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0093-0003.

[4] NRC (Committee on Toxicity Testing and Assessment of Environmental Agents, National Research Council). 2007. Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century: A Vision and a Strategy. National Academies Press, Washington, DC. Retrieved from:

report calls for the development of human-based cell and tissue assays instead of whole-animal tests for hazard assessment and regulatory decision-making.

In 2016, Congress took action to minimize animal testing through bipartisan support and passage of the "Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety of the 21st Century Act", which revised the Toxic Substances Control Act and included provisions to minimize animal testing and to continually update scientific best practices.[5] Vermont should join New Jersey, New York and California, which have all passed laws requiring companies to use alternative testing methods when available. By applying the best existing science to protect human health and transitioning away from outdated animal testing, S.161 will benefit both the people and animals in Vermont.

For these reasons, I ask for the Committee to favorably report out this legislation. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and your Committee's attention to this legislation.

Sincerely,

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http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11970. Accessed 25 January 2009

[5] Pub. L. No. 114-182 (2016). The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21sdt Century Act. Retrieved from: https://www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ182/PLAW-114publ182.pdf