

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 12, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman
Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar,

As sponsors of the bipartisan *AFTER Act*, we write to urge you to include this important, common-sense provision to protect animals and cut waste in the Senate's version of the 2026 Farm Bill.^[1] It was included by a voice vote in the House's *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, which passed on April 30.^[2]

In fiscal year 2024, the federal government experimented on approximately 40,000 regulated animals for research purposes across twelve federal agencies. The animals used include cats, dogs, monkeys, and rabbits. In the absence of formal retirement policies at federal agencies, many of these otherwise healthy animals—who were purchased with taxpayer dollars—are euthanized rather than rehomed when they are no longer needed for federal research. This is wasteful and unnecessary. The *Animal Freedom from Testing, Experimentation, and Research (AFTER) Act* is simple: it makes retirement and adoption an option for healthy laboratory animals.^[3]

Our legislation is narrowly tailored. It applies only to *Animal Welfare Act*-covered species and only to federal laboratories. It does not interfere with ongoing research. It does not mandate that animals be released. It simply directs relevant federal agencies to develop policies to facilitate the adoption or sanctuary placement of laboratory animals to ensure that when animals are no longer needed for research, adoption and retirement are considered before such animals are euthanized at taxpayer expense.

This would build on the work already being done across the federal government. The National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Defense have all implemented formal policies allowing for the retirement of research animals and have successfully rehomed animals to private homes and sanctuaries.

Support for the *AFTER Act* is broad and bipartisan. Last Congress, this bipartisan bill enjoyed the support of 20 Senate cosponsors, including five current members of your Committee, and 100 bipartisan House cosponsors. It is endorsed by animal welfare

organizations and supported in principle by leading biomedical research advocacy groups. Similar laws have already been enacted by sixteen states.

Animals that are suitable for adoption or retirement should not be killed by our federal government. Including the *AFTER Act* in the Senate Farm Bill would provide the necessary direction for federal agencies to move forward with developing retirement policies, ensuring that federal research upholds the highest standards of humane care and treatment and helping to prevent the needless euthanasia of healthy animals. We respectfully request that this widely supported reform be included in the Senate Farm Bill and retained in the final, bicameral package.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

^[1] <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/4172>

^[2] <https://www.congress.gov/amendment/119th-congress/house-amendment/199>

^[3] <https://www.collins.senate.gov/newsroom/senators-collins-peters-introduce-bipartisan-bill-to-connect-retired-government-laboratory-animals-with-loving-homes>

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator