

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.  
Secretary of the Department of Health and  
Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya  
Director of the National Institutes for Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Director Bhattacharya,

I write to commend your leadership and continued efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate unnecessary animal testing within federally funded research. The progress made under the Trump Administration towards modernizing biomedical research and limiting reliance on animal models reflects an important and humane shift in federal policy, and it is something almost all Americans can agree upon.

At the same time, I urge you to take further action by ending any National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding streams that support research involving dogs sourced from Ridgman Farms, the large-scale beagle breeding and research facility in Blue Mounds, Wisconsin.<sup>1</sup>

Ridgman Farms consistently houses approximately 2,000 beagles, bred solely for the purpose of experimentation, and has been the subject of sustained public concern and protest.<sup>2</sup> Investigations and legal proceedings have resulted in the facility agreeing to surrender its state breeding license by July 1, 2026, following allegations that included unauthorized veterinary procedures on animals.<sup>3</sup>

This issue is not about opposing scientific progress; it is about ensuring that federally funded research reflects both ethical standards and scientific advancement. Increasingly, experts including yourselves have questioned the necessity and reliability of animal models, particularly when modern alternatives can provide more accurate and humane results.

Given your stated commitment to reducing animal testing, I respectfully request that you:

- Provide a detailed list of active NIH-funded grants and contracts involving dogs sourced from Ridgman Farms and other commercial dog breeders;
- Immediately suspend funding for any projects that relies on Ridgman beagles; and
- Develop a clear timeline for phasing out all federal support for invasive research that uses dog and cats bred for experimentation and euthanasia.

The American people expect their tax dollars to reflect both fiscal responsibility and basic standards of humane treatment. Ending support for facilities that breed beagles for painful experimentation prior to euthanasia is consistent with those values and with the reform efforts your agencies have already begun.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fox6now.com/news/defunding-barbaric-dog-cat-labs-posed-ridgman-farms-remains-under-scrutiny>

<sup>2</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/wisconsin-animal-rights-protests-arrests-beagles-535d2b62a411201afd6382deac845351>

<sup>3</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/beagles-animal-rights-ridgman-wisconsin-9c6e9d7ad717146b47315cd7feab021>

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued leadership on improving the ethical standards of federally funded research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick A. Langworthy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

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Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress