

animal
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October 14, 2024

The Honorable Vern Buchanan
Vern Buchanan for Congress
P.O. Box 48928
Sarasota, FL 34230

Dear Representative Buchanan,

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political organization seeking to enhance and advance legal protections for animals, we are pleased to endorse your re-election campaign for U.S. Congress. As the Republican leader of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, you have been extraordinarily effective in securing major new national policies to advance the welfare of domesticated and wild animals, including the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act, the FDA Modernization Act 2.0, and the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act. You have truly made a difference in national affairs when it comes to animal protection. We value the opportunity to collaborate with you immensely.

In the 118th Congress, as has been your custom throughout your career, you have been a consistent advocate for animal welfare. You co-sponsored the FIGHT Act; the MINKS are Superspreaders Act; and the Greyhound Protection Act. This has been a hallmark for your career in Congress, strong and vocal support for a broad spectrum of pro-animal welfare legislative measures.

In addition, AWA was very pleased to see you retain your longtime role of lead House Republican sponsor for the SAFE Act, bipartisan legislation designed to end the slaughter of American horses for human consumption. AWA remains hopeful that you will be able to attach the SAFE Act to the 2024 Farm Bill during the upcoming Lame Duck session of Congress.

Also, AWA has been pleased to see your continuing leadership in the fight to eliminate animal testing in the drug development process. You were the lead House Republican sponsor of the FDA Modernization Act 2.0, which President Biden signed into law in December 2022. This bill abolished the FDA's mandate that all developmental drugs only be tested on animals and instead opened up the utilization of new, cutting-edge 21st century drug testing methods.

Unfortunately, for 22 months, the FDA has not updated its regulatory regime. As a result, drug sponsors are not able to fully realize all of the benefits of the FDA Modernization Act 2.0. AWA is very pleased to see you continue your strong leadership on this issue by cosponsoring the FDA Modernization Act 3.0, which requires the FDA to update its regulations. Doing this will allow the full benefits of the FDA Modernization Act 2.0 to be realized.

Respect for American democracy and the proper treatment of animals are fundamental values that must be preserved and protected. The way we treat animals, as individuals and as a nation, is a measure of our core values and decency as a society. Here at AWA, we fully understand that cruel and callous treatment of animals is typically entangled with other anti-social behaviors that make our neighborhoods and communities less safe for families.

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We are grateful for your leadership and strong expressions of support on a wide range of pro-animal welfare policies. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at all at wayne@animalwellnessaction.org or (202) 420-0446. We support your re-election this fall and look forward to working with you in the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,



Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action