

November 12, 2025

To: Backers of The Wisconsin Beagle Freedom Bill

Re: Restore the Original Intent and Transparency of AB436/SB414

Dear Senators and Representatives,

We thank you for your leadership and bipartisan support in introducing and co-sponsoring the Wisconsin Beagle Freedom Bill ([AB436/SB414](#)) — legislation that embodies compassion, accountability, and Wisconsin’s shared values about the proper treatment of dogs. The bill was designed to do one thing: ensure that dogs and cats used in research and no longer needed for testing are made available for adoption rather than killed by the labs.

The original bill mirrors “Beagle Freedom” laws enacted in [16 states](#), including Illinois, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Maryland, California, and Connecticut. These laws have saved thousands of animals’ lives.

Unfortunately, the recent [Senate Amendment 1](#) introduced to AB436/SB414 would undermine and reverse the very purpose of this humane legislation. The amendment was offered without discussion with the bill’s stakeholders or opportunity for public input, and it would:

- Give animal testing facilities sole discretion to decide whether animals are made available for adoption, effectively nullifying the adoption requirement;
- Shield research institutions from public oversight by exempting their records from Wisconsin’s open-records laws; and
- Eliminate penalties for failing to maintain or produce adoption records.

Wisconsinites expect transparency when it comes to the treatment of animals in research. The public has a right to know how many animals are being used, what becomes of them, and whether they are given an opportunity for adoption. A law that hides this information from taxpayers and shields institutions from accountability serves no one except those who benefit from secrecy.

Thousands of dogs are subjected to painful experiments in Wisconsin every year. The state is home to Ridgman Farms, the nation’s second-largest supplier of beagles for experimentation, which recently agreed to surrender its state license to avoid animal cruelty charges. Yet Ridgman will continue to operate its dog research business for now. Prominent Wisconsin research institutions, including the University of Wisconsin–Madison and LabCorp, would have to comply with the very reasonable and humane adoption standard.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have each announced plans to phase down and replace animal testing with human-relevant research models. The FDA's 2025 Roadmap envisions animal testing as "the exception rather than the norm," and the NIH recently committed to prioritizing non-animal methods across its research portfolio.

As the country moves away from animal testing, why wouldn't we at least allow the animals who have already endured confinement, pain, and invasive procedures to live out the rest of their lives in peace? To deny them that simple act of mercy would be both scientifically inconsistent and morally indefensible.

Passing the original Beagle Freedom Bill aligns Wisconsin with this national and scientific progress. It protects public confidence in government transparency and ensures that animals who have suffered for research are finally given a second chance — to feel grass beneath their paws, to know human kindness, and to spend their remaining years in loving homes.

We respectfully urge you to reject or remove the harmful amendment from AB436/SB414 and advance the clean, original version of the Beagle Freedom Bill that was introduced with broad bipartisan support.

This is a moment for Wisconsin to lead — to affirm that compassion, transparency, and accountability are the hallmarks of responsible policymaking.

We deeply appreciate your commitment to humane and ethical governance and stand ready to assist in restoring the bill's original language and purpose.

With gratitude and respect,

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