

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4698

To amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the Director of the National Institutes of Health from conducting or funding research that causes significant pain or distress to a dog or cat, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2025

Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. TOKUDA, and Ms. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the Director of the National Institutes of Health from conducting or funding research that causes significant pain or distress to a dog or cat, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Animal  
5 Abuse and Waste Act” or the “PAAW Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON RESEARCH CAUSING SIGNIFICANT**  
2 **PAIN OR DISTRESS TO DOGS AND CATS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 6 of part C of title IV  
4 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285f et seq.)  
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 447E. PROHIBITION ON RESEARCH CAUSING SIGNIFI-**  
7 **CANT PAIN OR DISTRESS TO DOGS AND CATS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH may not  
9 conduct or support any research that causes significant  
10 pain or distress to a dog or cat.

11 “(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘re-  
12 search that causes significant pain or distress’ includes  
13 any study that includes an assignment of pain category  
14 D or E, as defined by the Pain and Distress Categories  
15 of the Department of Agriculture (or such successor cat-  
16 egories developed pursuant to section 13 of the Animal  
17 Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143)).”.

18 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-  
19 section (a) applies beginning on the date that is 90 days  
20 after the date of enactment of this Act.

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