

Chairman Roe, Ranking Member Waltz, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. I have the privilege to represent a sizeable veteran population across my central Virginia district, and I have heard many great ideas from my colleagues today on how we can better serve them.

I am here today to highlight a problem within the VA. A problem that both animal lovers and taxpayer watchdogs should be concerned about. About a year ago, I learned that the VA was conducting painful and wasteful experiments on dogs. These maximum pain tests included severing nerves, inducing heart attacks, and stressing puppies with highly invasive procedures. Only three VA facilities conduct these types of tests on dogs, and one of them is the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA in Richmond.

The work at the Richmond VA is very important to me. I want to make sure that my veteran constituents are receiving the best care possible. However, in many cases, these dogs are not being used to research service-connected conditions and diseases. Simply put, these experiments are not helping veterans.

Mr. Chairman, it is time to end these painful experiments on man's best friend. My bill, the PUPPERS Act, would stop the most painful types of experiments on dogs, while allowing non-painful research to continue. I respectfully request that the

committee mark up my bill so that it can be considered on the House floor.

The House has already shown its support for ending these experiments at the VA. The Brat-Titus amendment, which defunded these same experiments, was successfully added to the Make America Secure Appropriations Act last July by voice vote. A modified version of the amendment made it into the most recent Omnibus.

The VA should focus its limited resources on improving the lives of veterans. There are many ways that dogs can be used to better the lives of veterans. For example, my bill ensures that service dog training programs can continue unencumbered, so that veterans affected by conditions from blindness to PTSD can receive the help they need.

If you have any questions about the PUPPERS Act, please follow up with me and I would be happy to provide you more information. Thank you, and I yield back.