Science Advancement & Outreach
A DIVISION OF PETA

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Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services
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Oral testimony

Good afternoon. I'm Dr. Emily Trunnell. I'm a neuroscientist and the director of Science Advancement and Outreach, the research policy division of PETA.

We are asking the Council to modernize the next National Plan by moving federal Alzheimer's research away from experiments on animals and toward human-based science.

The last National Plan described large investments of taxpayer funds in experiments on animals, including the development of more than 70 mouse models through MODEL-AD, despite that the fundamental problems with mouse models of Alzheimer's were already known. In 2019, experts warned that these models were, quote: "driving the field down a blind alley."

The next National Plan should not send another decade of Alzheimer's research down the same blind alley. Across the globe, science is increasingly shifting to human-based research like advanced in vitro systems, computational approaches, and more.

We ask the Council to recommend that federal agencies stop using taxpayer funds for experiments on animals and instead exclusively prioritize human-based approaches.

At a minimum, agencies should be compelled to systematically evaluate whether animal experiments are actually producing benefits for humans. If a model repeatedly fails to translate, or it can be replaced, taxpayers should not keep funding it.

The next National Plan should establish a strategy for transitioning away from animal use and should ask agencies to report on their progress. Our Research Modernization NOW framework provides a starting point and is available at Science.PETA.org.

A National Plan is a decision about which research deserves the nation's investment. With these shifts, we can ensure the next years of Alzheimer's research are truly transformative for patients.

Thank you for your time.