

# Fact Sheet

## Reducing the Deficit and Making Government Run Better: A New Way Forward

*How Congress can reduce spending while protecting chimpanzees and avoiding misguided research*

### CHIMPANZEES

**As the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction works to achieve massive cuts in federal spending, one of the ways to reach this goal is to phase out invasive research on chimpanzees and retire the approximately 500 federally-owned chimpanzees – currently languishing in laboratories at great expense – to less costly sanctuaries, saving taxpayers approximately \$300 million over ten years.**

### COST

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) currently spends approximately \$35 million per year to conduct invasive research on chimpanzees and maintain these animals in laboratories. Chimpanzees have largely failed as a research model, so at any given time, about 80 to 90 percent of chimps in U.S. labs are not used in research, but simply warehoused in barren but costly laboratory cages at taxpayer expense. Perpetuating this problem, approximately \$6 million in federal funding has gone toward breeding lab chimps since 2002, despite a moratorium on the breeding of government-owned and supported chimps put in place partly to reduce the government's financial burden. An anticipated \$1.8 million more is slated to be spent through FY12 for further unnecessary breeding. Every federally-owned chimp born into the system can cost the government \$1 million – averaging \$20,000 per chimp annually, and a lifespan of up to 60 years.

Reliance on chimps to study human disease has led to setbacks in biomedical progress and a substantial waste of funding. For example, hundreds of chimps were bred in the 1980s to study HIV/AIDS, but they failed as a model due to differences in immunology and disease progression. Further, the extreme stress of confinement and procedures to which they've been subjected over the years leave chimps physically and psychologically compromised as research subjects. Recently, at NIH's request, the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine convened a panel to consider the necessity of chimpanzees in biomedical and behavioral research. Several experts gave testimony confirming that chimps are not necessary for research, despite claims otherwise. Many alternatives to chimpanzee research are already in place and additional alternatives are in development – this is the way forward, and no more funds should be wasted on chimpanzee research.

Prompted by a petition filed by diverse stakeholders including The Humane Society of the United States, Jane Goodall Institute, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and Wildlife Conservation Society, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced that it is undertaking a review of whether all chimpanzees should be listed as endangered, further underscoring how inappropriate it is to fund their use in invasive research.

### SAVINGS

Ending invasive research on chimpanzees, transferring all government-owned chimps to sanctuaries, and discontinuing the federal support for breeding and for privately-owned chimpanzees in labs would save taxpayers an estimated \$30 million per year, totaling \$300 million over the next ten years. Part of the savings results from the lower cost of care at sanctuaries – keeping a chimp in a lab cage averages \$51 per day, compared with \$32 per day to live with other chimps in a natural setting at the national sanctuary (some private sanctuaries are even less).

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**PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

*“No funds shall be used for grant agreements or contracts that allow or encourage the breeding, housing, or use of chimpanzees for invasive research.”*

Estimated government savings from ending support of privately-owned chimpanzee colonies and invasive chimpanzee research as well as retiring government-owned chimpanzees to sanctuary

<b>Category of spending</b>	<b>Estimated \$ per year</b>
Government owned chimpanzees in laboratories	\$9,536,041
Privately owned chimpanzees in laboratories	\$3,651,460
Government funded projects involving invasive chimpanzee research (including \$1 million per year for breeding)	\$22,208,028
<b>Total current costs</b>	<b>\$35,395,529</b>
Future costs to retire gov't owned chimpanzees to sanctuary	\$5,840,000
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>	<b>\$29,555,529</b>