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AMP Statement on the Continued Need for Nonhuman Primate Research and Challenges Created by Accusations of Illegal Monkey Smuggling

Washington D.C. – Recent denials of federal import permits for long-tailed macaque monkeys from Cambodia, following [allegations of an animal-smuggling ring in that country](#), are placing future biomedical progress in jeopardy. This is because approximately 60 percent of long-tailed macaques that are imported into the U.S. for the development of new medications and other health interventions currently come from Cambodia.

Below is a statement from Americans for Medical Progress in response to this unfortunate and alarming situation which has the potential to negatively impact both human and animal health.

AMP Statement

“Studies in a variety of nonhuman primate species, including long-tailed macaques, play an irreplaceable role in the biomedical discovery process. This critical research allows for the development of new, safe and effective medications and therapies that impact countless lives, including animal lives, around the globe. For example, nonhuman primates repeatedly played a pivotal role in the development of safe and effective interventions to help the world successfully combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the international research community remains fully committed to current and future medical advancements, it also has a long, documented history of supporting environmentalism and caring deeply about the natural world. This is why we are dedicated to protecting wild populations and ensuring the animals involved in necessary biomedical research are treated with kindness and respect.

It has become abundantly clear that the development of additional primate breeding capacity within the United States is urgently needed. However, this solution will take many years to enact and will not immediately impact the current research animal shortage. Therefore, it is necessary for federal regulators and the biomedical research community to work closely together to rapidly seek solutions to address this issue while also ensuring that animals involved in urgent, necessary and ethical research are appropriately obtained and legally imported.”

About Americans for Medical Progress

[Americans for Medical Progress](#) (AMP) is a nonprofit, health research advocacy group that supports the advancement of human and animal medicine through responsible and highly regulated research in animals. AMP informs the public about animal-based research through outreach events like [Biomedical Research Awareness Day](#), news and opinion articles, social media interactions and various online and printed publications. AMP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity supported by the nation's top universities, private research facilities, research-related businesses, scientific and professional societies, as well as by foundation grants and contributions by individuals. AMP's Board of Directors is composed of physicians, researchers, veterinarians and university officials.

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