particularly overutilization and excessive program costs'').

While framed as a narrow exception, allowing variable compensation to sales representatives could effectively reintroduce the very kickback structures EKRA was designed to eliminate. Adopting a requirement that employees not knowingly and willfully provide false information would set a high bar for enforcement that could hinder efforts to prosecute cases where laboratories intentionally implement commission-based payment systems to directly reward referrals. The existing EKRA framework already permits reasonable employee compensation structures unrelated to referral volume, while restricting arrangements that create direct financial incentives for increasing referrals.

Finally, any claimed regulatory burden imposed by EKRA on the laboratory industry is substantially mitigated by the law's age and established status. EKRA was signed into law by President Trump on October 24, 2018, and it has now been in effect for almost eight years, providing ample time for laboratories to adapt their business models and compliance programs to align with its requirements. The laboratory industry also has operated successfully under similar Anti-Kickback Statute restrictions for variable compensation in connection with Medicare and Medicaid for decades, with clear understanding of compliant compensation structures. *See United States ex rel. Lutz* v. *Mallory,* 988 F.3d 730, 738 (4th Cir. 2021) (''[F]ederal appellate courts have frequently, and indeed invariably, upheld Anti-Kickback Statute violations based on commission payments to third parties.''); *United States* v. *St. Junius,* 739 F.3d 193, 210 (5th Cir. 2013) (''The Anti-Kickback Statute prohibits receiving commissions in return for referring a Medicare patient to a Medicare provider.''). The Department has used its criminal enforcement power under EKRA judiciously and there are no allegations in the request for rulemaking that it has overreached. For these reasons, the Department denies ACLA's petition.

B. Submission From Howard S. Spokane Dated July 13, 2021

In July 2021, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (''ATF'') received a petition for rulemaking that suggested ATF create a new licensing requirement for people possessing ''high-velocity'' ammunition, which was developed for military use (the petitioner stated this was explained in *Wound Ballistics,* a 1940s publication) and causes much more severe injuries than conventional ammunition. The petitioner suggested that this licensing requirement include: (1) a law enforcement right to periodically inspect to ensure the ammunition is stored safely; and (2) a psychiatrist's certification that the applicant does not suffer from or have a history of mental illness.

ATF declines to pursue this rulemaking. The Gun Control Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits the manufacture, importation, and distribution of ''armor piercing ammunition,'' 18 U.S.C. 922(a)(7)–(8), and also requires that individuals engaged in the business of importing or manufacturing ammunition be licensed under 18 U.S.C. 922(a)(1)(B). However, there is no statutory authority to regulate the sale or mere possession of standard ammunition. As a result, ATF cannot establish a licensing framework to possess high-velocity ammunition, as the petitioner requests. To the extent that the petitioner considers high-velocity ammunition to also be armor-piercing ammunition, ATF also cannot pursue the petitioner's request because determining whether ammunition is armor-piercing is a materials-based assessment under the law and does not measure or test velocity. If a given high-velocity ammunition is determined to be armor-piercing due to its materials, it will already be regulated under ATF's current framework and additional regulation would be unnecessary. Moreover, even in cases of armor-piercing ammunition, ATF does not have statutory authority to license possession.

Dated: September 21, 2026.

Todd Blanche,

Attorney General.

[FR Doc. 2026–19642 Filed 9–24–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

9 CFR Parts 101 Through 118, 123, and 124

[Docket No: USDA–2026–0298]

Modernization of Regulations Under 9 CFR Parts 101–118 and 123–124; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Request for Information; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the public comment period by 20 days on its Request for Information (RFI) to solicit the public's input on regulatory considerations related to 9 CFR parts 101–118, 123–124.

DATES: The comment period for the document originally published on September 11, 2026,

(91 FR 57828) is extended 20 days. Comments must be submitted on or before November 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: USDA invites public comments on this RFI and encourages stakeholders, including farmers, industry representatives, and state and local governments, to provide input. You may submit comments, identified by docket number USDA–2026–0298, in the Federal eRulemaking Portal: *http://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. All comments will be posted without change and will be publicly available on *www.regulations.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Poe, Office of the General Counsel, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–1400, (202) 769–8247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An RFI published in the **Federal Register** on September 11, 2026 (91 FR 57828), seeks public feedback to gather information that would assist USDA in modernizing regulations in 9 CFR parts 101–118, 123–124.

The RFI established a 30-day comment period, ending October 13, 2026. During the initial comment period, USDA received public input asking for an extension. Additional time would allow for careful and thoughtful consideration on a multitude of subjects as USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Center for Veterinary Biologics seeks to modernize its veterinary biologics regulations under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act.

Accordingly, USDA is extending the comment period for the RFI by an additional 20 days. Comments must be submitted on or before November 2, 2026.

Andrew Perry,

Associate Director, Office of the General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2026–19710 Filed 9–24–26; 8:45 am]

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