

March 20, 2019



Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on SB 638. As the senior research officers of three of the largest public research institutions, we would like to share our support of SB 638 with the -2 amendment.

Research is integral to the missions of our institutions. We operate large research enterprises that provide transformational educational experiences for our students, and vital research to improve Oregon's communities and public health. The knowledge gained through biomedical research is crucial to developing new ways to identify, prevent, treat or eradicate disease, and to improve human health and the world around us. The research we conduct sometimes requires the use of laboratory animals in order to improve human and animal health. Our overarching goals are always to ensure that animals at our facilities receive the highest quality care, and to protect the health of people who work with and around the animals.

We support the -2 amendment which involved close and collaborative work with Senator Steiner Hayward and other stakeholders. Among other important changes, the -2 amendment limits the species required to be offered for adoption to cats and dogs. We want to place animals into forever homes -- limiting the species to cats and dogs allows us to make a focused effort to place the animals most commonly regarded as pets into permanent homes that can meet the animal's needs. Other states with similar research animal adoption requirements also limit the scope of the requirements to cats and dogs. We will continue, as has been our practice, to offer other animal species for adoption on a case-by-case basis when our veterinarians determine it is safe for the animals and the community.

We currently operate research animal adoption programs with the goal of placing animals in permanent adoptive homes. The -2 amendment gives public research institutions multiple pathways to adoption by allowing them to maintain a private adoption process or work with a rescue entity to place cats and dogs in permanent homes.

We appreciate Sen. Steiner Hayward's recognition of the importance of our research, and the time her office has devoted to working with us on the amended language. We encourage your support of SB 638 with the -2 amendment.

Thank you,

Handwritten signature of Peter Barr-Gillespie in black ink.

Peter Barr-Gillespie
Chief Research Officer & Executive
Vice President
Oregon Health & Science University

Handwritten signature of Irem Tumer in black ink.

Irem Tumer
Vice President for Research
Oregon State University

Handwritten signature of David Conover in black ink.

David Conover
Vice President for Research and
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