

Submitter: Barbara Shor

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB2904

March 6, 2023

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly urge you to support HB 2904. It is important for the Oregon National Primate Research Center to submit reports about the treatment of primates in their care. The public should be aware of the negligence and abuse that goes on at this facility.

I am a veterinarian who did a residency in non-domestic animal medicine at the University of California, Davis. So I am well aware of what level of care is humane and sustainable for non-human primates, and I have dedicated my life to the well-being of animals. But before this, I was a student at Colorado State University Veterinary School and I spent the summer of my freshman year as an intern at ONPRC, then known as Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, ORPRC. I was introduced to primate medicine in all aspects during this time.

That was more than 40 years ago, in 1981. Over the years I have been haunted by images of those monkeys. Even back then, they were treated atrociously, all in the name of science and medicine. Many were housed in small metal cages, alone. In long rows, without sunlight or any kind of activity. These are social, intelligent animals. There was no access to any kind of enrichment or interaction with other animals. And then they were subjected to surgeries that were often redundant and unnecessary. And killed when they were no longer needed, or to be necropsied (autopsied) to examine the results of a drug or a disease they had been inflicted with. Sometimes they suffered terribly as a result of those treatments.

People thought this was normal. I was naive and did my best to overlook the circumstances. But as I have said, it has haunted me all these years, but I didn't know what to do about it.

I am so grateful that HB 2904 can at least make the treatment of animals in this facility more transparent. It is a beginning. If people know what really goes on behind the scenes, perhaps more action can be taken to stop the brutal treatment of these animals. They have been taken from their natural environment and subjected to the heinous activities of people who want to study them in inhumane ways, based often on the economic benefit and notoriety the researchers can receive. There seems to

be little concern for the true welfare of these primates. They are our close relatives and that is what makes them so vulnerable.

Thank you so much for considering passage of this critically important legislation.

Please feel free to call, text, or email me for further comment.

Sincerely,
Barbara Shor, DVM
80 Nursery St.
Ashland, OR 97520
barbara@barbarashor.com
541-531-6617