

Submitter: Bryan Bustamante

On Behalf Of: HB2904

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

Measure: HB2904

I assure you.....you will not find a more trained, qualified, and caring group of professionals as those you will find at the Oregon Primate Center. I have worked with and for several of these individuals and just to say that they go the extra mile for the well being of their animals is a severe understatement.

Let me give you all a brief overview of the process already in place for research and development. Most of the grant money funding research comes from the National Institute of Health. All facilities receiving money from the NIH are required to follow a set of guidelines that, in many cases, exceeds even those found in the Animal Welfare Act. All animal use protocols are thoroughly reviewed by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee which not only includes qualified veterinarians and exceptional folks from the scientific and medical community but they always contain the input from the non-scientific community to provide a more public aspect in additional advocacy for the animals. The IACUC reviews are so detailed that almost no animal use protocols get approved in the initial submission. There are always changes made for further advocacy for the animals. Until the changes are made, the animal use protocol is not approved and the project is not funded.

Adding more steps and redundancy by this bill will only hurt research and scientific progress. This certainly appears to be the only goal of this legislation by those who "just don't like/agree" with animal research. This opinion is acceptable and completely protected by the 1st Amendment but I highly encourage those who subscribe to this opinion to also thank animal research if they ever have or will have life saving surgery where they sleep through the entire procedure. Furthermore, the assessments from those in support of this bill are very unfair. They are unverified and solely based on biased propaganda propagated by radical activists in the area who display inaccurate and out of context depictions of research settings. Do your own research and reviews. I promise you you will only find a research program with the highest standards and uncompromising achievement of excellence in animal care.