

I am writing to strongly OPPOSE HB 2904 – (Requires institution or research facility that performs research, testing or studies involving nonhuman primates to annually report certain information to State Veterinarian).

Representative Gomberg would better serve his constituents by doing something about the families who don't have enough to eat, families who have to live in their cars, people without medical care. The monkeys at ONPRC are insured daily meals, are provided with more than adequate shelter, receive 24/7 veterinary care, in addition to the daily attention of the responsible and caring personnel who look after each and every animal. Can Representative Gomberg claim the same for his own constituents as well as for every individual in Oregon?

The Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC) adheres to all of the required federal and state regulations for keeping nonhuman primates at a federally-funded research facility, adding yet another piece of red tape will do nothing to enhance the welfare of the nonhuman primates. The ONPRC has a stellar record of compliance. Yes, there is sometimes human error and people cannot control the natural behavior of animals when the animals choose to fight each other. ONPRC has been transparent in the VERY FEW charges brought to bear and has remedied these issues immediately. The recent allegations published in the media of 30 or so 'serious' infractions is in reality about 15 that were related to ONPRC and the others to animal facilities at OHSU. Of the 15, 3 were serious issues and the rest were things like a wall needed new paint or dealt with minor building repairs that did not pose a threat or immediate concern to animal wellbeing. 3 serious issues plus 12 minor issues over the 9-year interval in question in the media report is an outstanding record given that there are OVER 5,000 ANIMALS being cared for DAILY at ONPRC. There are few human hospitals that can come close to this record of safety for their patients. Adding these extra reporting rules is totally unnecessary and is just a political ploy on behalf of Representative Gomberg who personally opposes the use of nonhuman primates in research. ONPRC employs hundreds of responsible individuals who provide outstanding care for the monkeys, who go above and beyond to make sure all regulations are being followed and that the animals receive the highest care. This bill has no merit.