

Submitter: Shauna Sherick

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB2904

Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Lewis, Vice Chair Tran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shauna Sherick and I live on property I own in Yamhill County. I am the founder of Wildwood Farm Sanctuary and Preserve, a sanctuary for farm animals and a wildlife nature preserve. I have worked for 28 years as a licensed veterinary technician and between my profession and my work in animal rescue, am familiar with humane standards of care for animals of all kinds. I am writing to urge you to support HB 2904 to bring much needed transparency to the operations of the OHSU Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC).

For many years I have read about instances of animal cruelty and mistreatment at the ONPRC, and have watched with dismay as they refuse to willingly provide information to the public about their research and how they treat their animals. In my opinion, rather than work diligently to improve their animal care, ONPRC sees the concerned public as an adversary and stubbornly fights to avoid transparency and accountability. I am especially appalled at how Rep. David Gomberg was treated when he sought records pertaining to two monkeys who were killed after being left in their cages when the cages were placed into an industrial washing machine. For an Oregon institution to treat an elected state representative with such arrogance and outright hostility told me that ONPRC views itself as above accountability. Regardless of party affiliation, we should all be deeply concerned with that kind of behavior from a taxpayer-funded facility.

I am aware that OHSU and ONPRC have a long and terrible history of violations of the Animal Welfare Act, and that they were recently fined by the USDA for the deaths of several animals in their care in circumstances that reveal an overall lack of concern for the well-being of their laboratory animals. These animals, and especially the primates being used in ONPRC's laboratory experiments, deserve better. This is a matter of concern for all Oregonians, and unless and until ONPRC is required to provide the public with basic data on the animals it uses, it is evident that it will not do so voluntarily.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to pass HB 2904 with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for considering my views and for your service to the people of Oregon.

Shauna Sherick, LVT  
Wildwood Farm Sanctuary & Preserve  
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