

Submitter: Jamie Taub

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2904

House Bill 2904 seeks to add redundant oversight to the essential work that is animal research. As a facility working with nonhuman primates and receiving NIH grants ONPRC's actions are heavily dictated by the rules set in place by Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare in the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. These policies include internal review boards as well as biannual surprise visits from USDA inspectors. There are hefty fines and consequences for violations. How would adding the State Veterinarian's input and an invoice help maintain animal welfare standards? Chief sponsor Representative Gomberg went on a smear campaign against the primate center earlier this year, speaking to prominent Oregon newspapers about a research facility far outside of his district. I don't see what Gomberg gains through this campaign; he only used insight from touring the center as fuel for a fire against animal research.

It is a privilege to perform research and provide care to nonhuman primates, which very few people get to experience. Employees at ONPRC approach this task with great care and dedication for the well being of the animals as well as advancement of scientific research. Nonhuman primates make critically important models for diseases such as HIV, diabetes, endometriosis and other health concerns related to aging, reproduction, neurological health and more.

Representative Gomber provides little details of what is gained by additional oversight and no details where the income from new fees would go. To me it seems that what could be lost is Oregon's role in critical research.