



March 9, 2023

To: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

From: National Association for Biomedical Research

RE: Oregon bill HB2904- Relating to research on primates

Dear Representatives:

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) opposes HB2904- Relating to research on primates.

This bill would require institutions or research facilities that perform research, testing or studies involving nonhuman primates to annually report certain information to State Veterinarian and provides fines for violations.

For more than 43 years, NABR has been the nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating for sound public policy in support of ethical and essential laboratory animal research and the lifesaving discoveries they produce. NABR's diverse and unified membership includes more than 330 universities, medical and veterinary schools, teaching hospitals, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, patient groups and academic and professional societies that rely on humane and responsible use of research animals to advance global human and animal health.

Animal research remains vital to our mission to understand disease, discover targeted therapies, alleviate suffering, and improve and increase the quality of life. Biomedical research projects involving animals, governed by a strict structure of laws, regulations, and guidelines, continue to yield invaluable data in the process of discovering new therapies to treat, cure, and prevent disease.

NABR believes this legislation is duplicative of oversight that is already required at the federal level and would negatively impact breakthroughs in biomedical research due to increased administrative burden. Under current federal law, research facilities are subject to unannounced USDA inspections and must comply with the Animal Welfare Act as well as the Public Health Service Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals if receiving funds from various federal funding sources. Policies and protocols are in place, and strictly adhered to, that address animal housing and care, veterinary medical care, facilities management, training, and occupational health. Furthermore, most research institutions are also accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International ("AAALAC"). AAALAC is the primary accrediting body for animal research programs in the United States and elsewhere.



Non-human primates (NHP's) are essential in the discovery and evaluation of new therapeutics before they go to clinical trials in human and animal patients. Because of their close genetic, physiological, and behavioral similarity to humans, NHPs are often the only relevant animal models for critical translational research. We support efforts to replace, reduce, and refine the use of animals in drug and vaccine development. However, new drug and vaccine testing technologies to realize this vision at a broad scale and that meet regulatory acceptance are still many years away. We ask the committee to unfavorably report HB2904, so research facilities in Oregon can continue to create lifesaving treatments for diseases, discover targeted therapies, alleviate suffering, and improve and increase the quality of life for both humans and animals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew R. Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue highlight effect.

Matthew R. Bailey  
President