

Submitter: Cassandra Cullin

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2904

I am writing to emphatically 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). This bill for the most part represents a duplication of information that is already publicly available. Section 1.a.A-E are already reported annually via required federal reporting requirements, and Section 1.b and 1.d are also available for those who wish to review the information available through federal and state funding organizations.

Additionally, the text of the bill itself is inflammatory and obviously directed toward one institution in particular and, in fact, a truncated number of the species utilized in research in the state of Oregon. Nonhuman primates involved in research already receive federal protection and oversight to ensure that they receive the best possible standard of care while also contributing to life-saving translational research. As one of the few institutions with nonhuman primates in Oregon, the Oregon National Primate Research Center also follows requirements set out by taxpayer funded research, including maintaining accreditation through independent, voluntary organizations that review the animal care program on a regular basis. On a local level, staff at the ONPRC are empowered to review their own program and work to make improvements over time- this is something that happens on a daily basis, and Senator Gomberg's one-sided, agenda-driven statements are based on outdated, inaccurate information about nonhuman primate care in general, let alone at the ONPRC.

Those who work in veterinary medicine and humane care of laboratory animals need to continue providing high quality animal care for nonhuman primates used in research. The information demanded by this bill will require a significant amount of effort to be taken from feeding, cleaning, preventive health, research, and already-required recordkeeping to... duplicating paperwork to ameliorate one person's agenda? How is that the best use of resources at these research institutions and the State Veterinarian's office? Should staff have to choose between caring for research primates and sitting at a desk to submit different iterations of reports that have already been provided to federal and state agencies? Should the State Vet's office redirect their efforts from needed epidemiologic oversight of things like Avian Flu, Equine Herpes, and state animal health toward this, as well? I argue that the impact of this bill will not improve animal welfare but will instead decrease the resources available to care for research animals AND for other animals in this state due to the increased burden required by the bill in its current form. The downstream effect of

passing HB 2904 is actually increased animal and human suffering, and additional burden and costs for Oregon taxpayers, as they will be the ones footing the bill for this extraneous legislation.

Research that involves nonhuman primates improves the human condition. My mother, father, sister, and grandmother would not be here today- my sons and I would not be here today- without their contributions to our understanding of medicine and development of treatments that work. Reporting requirements for research institutions are necessary, but they must be reasonable, and HB 2904 is not. I urge you to vote NO on HB 2904.