

Submitter: Nikki Dennis

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2904

As a compassionate human being, I strongly support HB 2904 which would require OHSU's National Primate Research Center and other state facilities that perform research, testing, or studies on primates to submit annual reports to the state. As an Oregonian, it was horrifying to hear of the death of the two primates and the lack of transparency that followed that particular instance as well as other disturbing incidents ongoing for years! OHSU prides itself as being one of the best hospitals in the country which, in my opinion, is a hollow overall claim to make given the primate testing they are participating in.

This much needed bill will ensure accountability and responsibility where it is currently lacking by requiring them to report information to the state, promoting transparency on a matter of public concern. It will work to eliminate the lack of transparency in primate research which can result in more cruel and negligent treatment of animals as well as unnecessary deaths. It will enable taxpayers to know more about what the center is doing since OHSU's primate center receives funding from federal grants. Lastly, it will acknowledge that the OHSU's primate research center has been cited in the past for serious violations of animal welfare laws which justifies public scrutiny.

While I am strongly against animal testing overall and feel it is far past time we fully stop oppressing groups we deem "others," it is absolutely inexcusable for OHSU or any facility to be entrusted with sentient beings and then ignore the responsibility that comes with it. In 2023, we must finally acknowledge the level of intelligence and range of emotions animals exhibit when given the opportunity to exist and raise families in a natural setting and be free from confinement, pain, fear, boredom, sadness, and, at times, death while in the "care" of this center.