

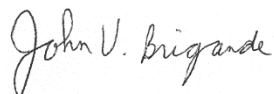
Oregon House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
RE: March 9, 2023 Public Hearing on HB2904: Nonhuman primate research reporting requirements

Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Lewis and Tran, for the record, my name is John V. Brigande, Ph.D., and I am a professor of Otolaryngology in the Oregon Hearing Research Center at the Oregon Health & Science University. I am jointly appointed at the same rank to the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC). My research seeks to define therapies to treat human congenital hearing loss and vestibular dysfunction. We assess the efficacy of our therapeutic strategies in nonhuman primate models of inner ear disease as an essential step to ensure that the safest and most effective therapeutics are fast-tracked into human clinical trials to benefit the deaf, hearing impaired, and those with imbalance. I am vehemently opposed to HB2904 for the following reasons:

- 1) The annual, mandatory reporting requirement proposed in HB2904 largely overlaps with the extensive Federal compliance reporting obligations that the ONPRC already satisfies in order to receive federal research support. A substantial amount of this information is readily available through the FOIA request process. Superimposing this duplicative reporting requirement to the State of Oregon veterinarian would be onerous and burdensome, diffusing staff time and effort away from essential research activities whose outcomes have historically benefitted human health.
- 2) The requirement that the annual state reports would be made publicly available in their entirety is irresponsible since at least a subset of animal rights activists will undoubtedly misrepresent activities at the ONPRC without appropriate scientific context to benefit their aims. This outcome will unjustly bias social perspectives against life-saving nonhuman primate research. Indeed, all of us should be indebted to nonhuman primates for their role in validating the effectiveness of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. Without nonhuman primate-based COVID-19 research, many more individuals throughout the world would have died.

I think the value of nonhuman primate research is grossly misunderstood. The ONPRC has a highly-evolved public outreach program to explain how we care for and use nonhuman primates in research. I personally invite you to the ONPRC campus to participate in a public tour of our facilities. I welcome the opportunity for my colleagues and me to discuss with you and your staff the significance of nonhuman primate research for advancing human health. Now more than ever with communicable and genetic diseases so prevalent in society, we need to advance nonhuman primate research whose track record in defining and validating novel therapeutics. HB2904 will obstruct life-saving nonhuman primate research at great detriment to the health and well-being of society.

Respectfully,



John V. Brigande, Ph.D.
Professor of Otolaryngology
Professor, Oregon National Primate Research Center