

Submitter: DreeAnna Morris

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2904

I have now worked in animal research at OHSU for a decade, both as a research technician/lab manager and now as a part of their Integrity Department. I would like to offer my insight from my multiple perspectives.

My degree is in chemistry and I originally had absolutely no inclination toward biomedical research. I would even have described animal research as “icky”. However, in working with OHSU researchers I discovered two view-changing things. The first and most obvious was that these researchers care deeply for the animals they work with. Every step of the way, and in every project, the animals’ well-being is considered first and that impact is always minimized.

The second discovery was how incredibly important animal research is. This research is the best (and often ONLY) path to drug and device discovery for both human and animal kind. The route to FDA drug approval involves many steps but animal models are truly essential and irreplaceable.

In my time with the Integrity Department I have had one more revolutionary discovery and it applies directly to this bill. This work is well regulated and there is an amazing amount of redundancy already built in. There are several committees of peer reviewers which review and approve work with animals on both campuses. And, there is consistent and overlapping oversight from and reporting to several government agencies for this federally funded work.

There are only two Oregon institutions with the ability to do this life-saving work with non-human primates (NHPs). HB2904 unfairly targets these institutions. It would implement excessive and redundant reporting which will create unnecessary administrative and financial burden on an institution which is actively engaged in and pursuing public health for all beings in the state of Oregon. I urge you to vote no on HB2904.