

Submitter: Robert Zweig

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2904

I strongly oppose HB2904.

I have worked in nonhuman primate research for 20 years and at many nonhuman primate facilities around the country. I can attest unequivocally that the Oregon National Primate Research Center has one of the best animal care programs in the United States. Portrayals of the Center as dangerous and the staff as incompetent are made with bad faith arguments cherry-picking legitimate but extraordinary errors over the course of a decade and purposely ignore context and the exemplary work that is done at all other times day-in and day-out by the people who work there. The animal care staff holds itself to a very high standard and it weighs heavily on everyone on the rare occasions when that standard is not met. The letter written to OHSU leadership after the tragic cage wash incident was, in fact, an example of the ONPRC staff holding their own people accountable and their dedication to positive change. They are passionate about caring for the animals in their charge and external scrutiny is the least motivating factor for their diligence to that mission.

Oversight for nonhuman primate research is already very robust thru the Animal Welfare Act and other federal regulations. The extraneous and duplicative reporting that HB2904 proposes to require would divert vital resources while providing no actual improvements to animal care and welfare. I implore you not to support this proposed legislation.