

Submitter: Kristen Larson

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB4148

As a third-year veterinary student at Oregon State University, I have learned the importance of infectious diseases in various animal species as part of my curriculum. I chose to attend Oregon State University because I wanted to be part of a veterinary program that makes a difference. Coming from Arizona where we have a variety of infectious diseases unique to the southwest, I was surprised and concerned to learn about some of the distinctive diseases of Oregon and the pacific northwest. Most of these diseases are only a concern to us and our pets because they circulate in the environment and in wildlife. Unfortunately, after living through the COVID-19 pandemic, we are more acutely aware than ever that what we don't know about can absolutely hurt us. The Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at OSU is our number one resource for making sure that Oregon stays one step ahead of these animal diseases native to the pacific northwest. One of the experiences I'm most excited for in my last year of veterinary school is my training in the Diagnostic Lab, where I will learn about how we screen and test for these diseases. Knowing that OSU's veterinary program is one of the youngest in the nation, I was excited to enroll at this school, but was also surprised to see that many of the diagnostic lab spaces are more out of date than other state schools. I support this bill in part because I know we have the brilliant staff of veterinarians and technicians capable of being the unsung heroes that protect us from animal diseases, and I will be proud to know that they have state-of-the-art facilities and equipment to do their jobs at the level of other top vet schools in the nation. HB 4148 is the key to making this happen, and I hope to see this bill pass for the betterment of both OSU's veterinary program and for all Oregon state residents and their pets.