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On Behalf Of:

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As we have seen repeatedly in recent years, zoonotic diseases are a major threat to public health and the veterinary college and diagnostic laboratory are vital to our quick response to emerging threats and a collaborative one health approach in our state. During the covid pandemic we saw how the diagnostic laboratory sprung into action with testing and contributed to the state response to that crisis. Now in recent weeks we can see again the importance of the vet school in the response to H5N1 and public education to assist farmers in protocols to protect their livestock and reduce the risk of zoonotic spread. Veterinary care is not just about keeping our pets healthy, but also the future of our public health and the prevention of interruptions to our food supply through food animal production. The OVDL is the only facility equipped to address these concerns and is currently alarmingly underfunded. I have lived in oregon my whole life and have interacted with carlson college of vet med with my own livestock from my family's farm as well as in my current position as an OSU student studying animal science. Many counties in oregon have a shortage of food animal veterinarians and I experienced this first hand while trying to find veterinary care for my livestock. This was part of what motivated me to want to pursue education in veterinary medicine to help fill those gaps. Since carlson college of vet med is the only vet school in the state and only one of 33 in the entire nation, appropriate funding for this is critical to the future of livestock care in our state and our ability to protect both animal and human populations from future threats.