

Submitter: Jacob Carpenter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2167

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens,

As the Media & Marketing Coordinator for Willamette Valley Animal Hospitals and Plateau Veterinary Hospitals, I am writing to express strong support for HB 2167, which would allocate critical funding to the OSU Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine and the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL). This funding is essential to address the growing challenges faced by Oregon's veterinary community and the broader agricultural and public health sectors.

The need for qualified veterinarians in Oregon has never been greater. With the Oregon Employment Department projecting a 25% growth in veterinary careers over the next decade, OSU's role as one of only 33 accredited veterinary colleges in the United States is indispensable. Its comprehensive curriculum prepares students for vital roles in core clinical disciplines, specialized areas like wildlife and marine medicine, and fields critical to agricultural sustainability, such as food animal care.

Currently, Oregon faces a significant veterinary shortage in six federally designated regions, including Douglas, Tillamook, and Umatilla counties. These shortages severely impact our state's agricultural economy, which contributes 13% to the state's GDP, by limiting access to essential animal health services for farmers and ranchers.

Moreover, the public health implications of insufficient veterinary resources cannot be overstated. Emerging disease threats like highly pathogenic avian influenza and chronic wasting disease underscore the urgency of maintaining robust veterinary education and diagnostics. The OVDL is uniquely positioned to address these threats, yet its outdated facilities and chronic underfunding hinder its effectiveness.

OSU's request for \$13.5 million in funding—\$10 million for the Lois Bates Acheson Veterinary Teaching Hospital and \$3.5 million for the OVDL—will address these critical needs. This funding will enable the college to train more veterinarians, enhance diagnostic capabilities, and protect the health of Oregon's animals, people, and environment.

As veterinary professionals committed to serving the health and well-being of animals and the communities that depend on them, we urge you to prioritize this investment in our state's future. Supporting HB 2167 is not only an investment in veterinary

medicine but also in Oregon's agriculture, public health, and economic resilience.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this essential legislation.

Best regards,

Jacob Carpenter

Media & Marketing Coordinator

Willamette Valley Animal Hospitals & Plateau Veterinary Hospitals