

Submitter: Jani Remsburg

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2167

Your support of the bill is needed! Please consider helping us build a written record of support for this legislation. Representatives Ken Helm and Mark Owens co-chair the committee, and you'll want to address your comments to them. Here are some talking points to use as you craft your letter or email:

- **Workforce Development** - The Oregon Employment Department ranks veterinarians as one of Oregon's fastest growing occupations and estimates a 25% growth over the next 10 years, and OSU is one of only 33 accredited veterinary medical schools in the US. Opportunities exist for specialized training, such as zoo, exotics, and wildlife medicine, marine sciences, clinical nutrition, and various clinical specialties (cardiology, oncology, theriogenology, anesthesiology, internal medicine, and surgery). OSU gives students a well-rounded education that emphasizes the importance of core training in comparative biology and medicine, including all primary clinical disciplines and domestic animal species.
- **Current Veterinary Shortages** - Oregon has six federally designated regions with a chronic shortage of veterinarians. Douglas, Sherman, Tillamook, Klamath, Crook and Umatilla counties have severe, long-standing shortages of food animal veterinarians to support area farmers and ranchers. This negatively impacts Oregon agriculture which accounts for 13% of the state's GDP.
- **Public Health** - Disease threats to Oregonians continue to evolve. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (bird flu) has jumped into mammals, including cattle and humans, while diseases such as chronic wasting disease and mosquito-borne diseases threaten public health and the health of the environment, impacting hunting and outdoor recreation.
- **Uniquely Positioned** - The Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL) is Oregon's only laboratory positioned to address diseases of concern to Oregon's animals, public, and environment. Its ability to address these concerns is gravely threatened by chronic insufficient funding and badly outdated facilities.
- **Funding** - Support for veterinary medical education and cutting-edge disease diagnostics in Oregon has lagged the rest of the nation for decades, leaving the state vulnerable to emerging disease threats and with too few veterinarians to support animal agriculture. OSU ranks 31 out of 33 veterinary colleges in state funding at \$3.4 million; the national average is \$13.4 million annually. Revenue generated from tuition to the college is not nearly enough to ensure excellence in its service and teaching.
- **The Request** - OSU is requesting \$10 million for the veterinary teaching hospital and \$3.5 million for the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Lab to support protecting public and animal health through disease surveillance, diagnosis, and the

training of future veterinarians. The funds will address the severe shortage of veterinarians in rural Oregon, support ongoing veterinary education, and enhance our capacity to combat significant health threats to animals and humans.

To upload your letter in PDF format, or to type your comments directly into the system, [click here](#) and select the January 22 meeting date (you'll be able to select the date once the agenda for the meeting has posted). You can submit written testimony to the Committee until 8:00 AM on Friday, January 24, 2025. Also, please send a copy to your legislators. You can look up your legislators with [this link](#).

Thank you – we appreciate your support!

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OSU CVM Class of 2000