

Hello,

I am writing to declare support for measure SB 5525 to allocate funding to support continued services at the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL). Veterinary services are crucial to maintaining public health, and the pathologists at OVDL are an essential resource for state wildlife services, farmers, pet owners, veterinarians, and public health officials. The OVDL is actively working with state officials to diagnose and track H5N1 cases, which has enormous implications for industry and public health; continued funding for the lab is necessary for their efforts to continue. They have also been essential to documenting the increasing prevalence of Leptospirosis in Oregon, a serious disease that presents an emerging threat to both human and animal health.

Finally, **diagnostic laboratories are critical to responding to the escalating threat of antimicrobial resistance, which is projected to become the leading cause of human death by 2050.** Proper selection of antimicrobials by humans AND veterinarians is our best weapon against “superbugs”, and we cannot test for antibiotic resistance without diagnostic labs like the OVDL.

Animal health programs have more impact on human health than I can convey in this statement, but I hope I have conveyed that funding the OVDL is essential to supporting both animal and public health efforts. Given the rising rates of H5N1 and the emerging threat of antimicrobial resistance, it is more important than ever to support and fund the OVDL.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kelly Lindemann

Resident of Corvallis, Oregon