

Submitter: Jennifer Slepian

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB181

If you had been a volunteer at the Oregon Humane Society in August 2022 when 80 beagles arrived from the Envigo breeding facility, you would never support testing on animals. These dogs arrived with green tattoos in their soft, floppy ears- their only ID in their life until OHS gave them names. We saw them take their first steps on green grass, play together, discover toys, and despite all the horrors they had been through, they still trusted humans to love them and do good by them. As Oregonians, we simply cannot allow animals to be the victims of medical testing. While in my opinion, this bill does not go far enough and should ban ALL testing on animals, it is a start.

As an Oregon resident, I'm asking you to please support SB 181, which will prohibit state funding for experiments that cause the most suffering on dogs and cats at university laboratories. Additionally, I encourage expanding the bill to close down the OHSU primate facility in a responsible and humane way for all concerned—benefiting both the animals and the workers involved. Further, I would like to direct you to a blog post I wrote about the environmental and climate change impacts from animal testing labs: <https://www.climatesmartpets.com/blog/animal-testing-and-climate-change-is-there-a-link>.

Testing on primates offers little to no benefit to human health. The Center for a Humane Economy states that clinical trials performed on animals have a 90-95% failure rate when they reach the human clinical trial phase. This failure rate has led to changes at the federal government level through Congress' passage of the FDA Modernization Act 2.0 that supports non-animal trials. There have been amazing technological improvements in developing alternatives to animal testing, including 3D printed organs, studies using human cells and tissues from cadavers, even growing live cells from skin and cheek swabs, "organs on chips" that are 3D chips created from human cells that mimic organs, and even improved computer modeling. Simply stated, we do not need to inflict torture on animals under the guise of medical necessity.

This should be a bipartisan slam dunk. I will point out that just in the past week, Representative Nancy Mace (R-South Carolina) introduced Violet's Law to allow former testing animals to be adopted out instead of mercilessly killed when they are no longer needed. We KNOW that OHSU destroys their primates when they are done with them- this is an abhorrent practice. On May 4, 2025 the NIH closed their last Beagle testing lab as well, under Republican leadership (DOGE reasons aside...).

For Oregon to be a progressive state, it cannot allow OHSU to continue to operate the Primate Lab or allow animal testing of any kind. The scope of this particular bill is more limited in its implementation, but I support its passage as a preliminary action for animal welfare in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jenny Slepian