

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned Oregonian, animal advocate, and compassionate citizen in strong support of Senate Bill 181. This important legislation represents a deeply needed shift in how we treat dogs, cats, and other sentient beings in our state's publicly funded institutions.

SB 181 would prohibit the use of state funds for painful and unnecessary experiments on dogs and cats in university laboratories. As taxpayers, we should not be compelled to support procedures that cause extreme suffering to companion animals—especially when humane, modern alternatives are available. These animals, who we welcome into our homes and lives with love, deserve protection from such cruelty.

I am also grateful to see the committee considering an amendment to this bill that would begin the responsible and humane phase-out of the Oregon National Primate Research Center at OHSU. The conditions and experiments described—including substance abuse testing, infectious disease exposure, and experiments on pregnant monkeys—are distressing and out of step with both evolving scientific understanding and public values. Oregon can and should be a leader in compassionate, ethical research practices that reflect our state's strong commitment to both science and humane treatment of animals.

This amendment wisely considers not only the welfare of nearly 5,000 primates currently housed at the center but also the livelihoods of the workers. A thoughtful transition plan could support retraining and placement, ensuring that the shift is just and equitable for all involved.

Senate Bill 181 offers Oregon a unique opportunity to align our public spending with our moral values. By supporting this bill and its amendment, you are taking a principled stand for compassion, scientific integrity, and the responsible stewardship of public funds.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I urge you to vote yes on SB 181 and help move our state forward—toward a more ethical and humane future.

With respect and hope,

Traci Porter (McMinnville, Oregon)