



Formerly called the Humane
Society of the United States and
Humane Society International

May 12, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management,
General Government, and Veterans
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 181, prohibiting a research facility from using public funds to directly fund medically unnecessary laboratory research on dogs or cats that are classified under certain pain and distress categories.

Dear Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Grayber and Lewis and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Humane World for Animals, formerly known as The Humane Society of the United States, please accept this public hearing testimony in support of SB 181 and the potential extension of the bill to include a plan to end the use non-human primates for testing at the OHSU National Primate Research Center.

SB 181 is a critical bill that will prohibit state funding for the experiments that cause the most suffering to dogs and cats at university laboratories, ensuring that Oregonians aren't forced to fund cruel and wasteful experiments on dogs and cats. The painful—often excruciating—procedures that they experience include being intentionally injured, implanted with medical devices, infected with diseases, subjected to repeated surgeries, force-fed drugs, pesticides or other substances and observed for harmful effects. Dogs are typically killed once an experiment is over, particularly dogs used in chemical or drug testing.

At the same time, an expanding body of knowledge is finding that tests on dogs, like all animals, are extremely unreliable at predicting human reactions to toxic substances—a coin toss, at best. For example, 90 percent of drugs tested on animals where no toxicity was observed ultimately fail in human trials, with an estimated half due to unexpected toxicity in humans. While SB 181 would not prohibit research on dogs and cats using federal funding or private grants, it would ensure that no Oregon taxpayer dollars are spent on these unnecessary, agonizing experiments.

We also hope that SB 181 will be amended to include phasing out of the National Primate Research Center at OHSU. The Center currently subjects nearly 1,000 monkeys each year to



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shocking substance abuse and infectious disease experiments—often using pregnant mothers—before they are killed. OHSU has accumulated several federal Animal Welfare Act violations and warnings through the years. These experiments are cruel and unnecessary. We support amending the bill in Committee to, after over 30 years of scrutiny, enact a plan to close the OHSU primate facility responsibly and humanely for all concerned, benefiting both the animals and the workers involved.

Recent announcements by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health to prioritize the use of alternative testing methods demonstrate that there is a dramatic paradigm shift underway for biomedical research and safety testing. Advancements in technology are moving us closer to the day when no monkeys, or animals more broadly, will be used for research and testing, replaced with more effective ways to address human health and safety. This new approach to toxicity testing already is enabling more rapid, cost-effective safety testing of chemicals and providing information more relevant to humans. By shutting down the Center and focusing on the development and utilization of technologies, Oregon can be a leader in the new frontier of non-animal testing methods.

Once again, we ask you to support SB 181 and to include an amendment that will lead to the permanent closure of the OHSU National Primate Research Center.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

Kelly Peterson
Oregon State Director
Humane World for Animals