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May 13, 2025

To: Representative Thuy Tran, Chair of House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans  
RE: SB 181A, relating to animals

Representative Tran and members of the Committee,

I serve as Dean of Oregon State University's Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 181A.

I understand the intent of the bill is to prohibit the use of public funds to support laboratory research on dogs and cats that is classified by the United States Department of Agriculture as a pain and distress category D or E. Category D refers to animals experiencing pain or distress for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing agents are used to alleviate or prevent the pain. Category E, on the other hand, refers to animals experiencing pain or distress where the use of appropriate pain relief would negatively impact the research or test.

The federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires research facilities to submit an annual report on animals used in research, testing, or experimentation. The report must also categorize these animals based their pain and distress category.

All use of animals for teaching and research at OSU is overseen by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) as mandated by the AWA. The IACUC at OSU adheres to high standards of oversight of animal use and care at the University. The IACUC reviews all classifications of pain and distress for all animal care and use protocols that are submitted. The IACUC at OSU would not approve animal use in the D and E pain and distress categories.

While I don't see SB 181A directly impacting OSU's research and teaching operations, OSU does have concerns with the veterinary specific definitions in the bill. The current definitions in the bill do not accurately describe the mission and operations of veterinary research and teaching.

The proposed definition of **clinical veterinary research** (*means research on an animal with a naturally occurring disease or injury that is conducted: (A) For the benefit of the animal; and (B) With the intention of studying the effect of a procedure, device or treatment protocol carried out to improve the diagnostics, treatment methods and health of animals*) utilizes subjective language that focuses on a signal animal instead of a research method use to collect, analyze, interpret data from a set of animals to improve our understanding and care of animals overtime.

OSU requests the definition of clinical veterinary research be amended to: *research on the effects of new procedures, tests, devices or treatments on animal patients with naturally occurring diseases or injuries; carried out to improve diagnostic, procedures, treatment methods, and health of animals.*

OSU also has concerns with the proposed definition of **veterinary education** (*means laboratory research on an animal for the purpose of training veterinary professionals under a program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association.*) This definition focuses solely on laboratory research which might be a segment of a veterinarian's training but does not accurately describe veterinary education.

**Veterinary education** is the structured process of teaching and learning the scientific, clinical, and ethical principles required to become a veterinarian. It encompasses the study of animal anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, surgery, and public health, as well as the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases in animals. A broader look at veterinary education could include the training of veterinary technicians and/or assistants. All of this training is done at accredited institutions.

OSU requests veterinary education definition be amended to mean the veterinary education and training required to become a DVM, VMD, veterinarian technician or assistant completed at an accredited veterinary program.

It is important that Oregon State Statute accurately describes the education offered and operations at Oregon's veterinary educational institutions. Thank you for taking these suggestions into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan J. Tornquist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan J. Tornquist, DVM, PhD, Dip. ACVP,  
Lois Bates Acheson Dean, Professor Clinical Pathology