

Submitter: Jacob Vaage  
On Behalf Of: Animal Rights Collective Portland  
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General  
Government, and Veterans  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB181

Chair Representative Thuy Tran, Vice Chairs Representative Dacia Grayber and Representative Rick Lewis, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 181, which would prohibit the use of public funds for medically unnecessary laboratory research on dogs and cats when such procedures cause significant pain or distress.

This legislation reflects both ethical responsibility and fiscal accountability. Category D and E experiments, as defined by federal standards, often involve procedures that result in moderate to severe suffering. While some research may be justified in the pursuit of life-saving breakthroughs, SB 181 focuses specifically on preventing the use of public dollars for experiments that are not medically necessary—experiments that fail to meet a standard of clear scientific or therapeutic benefit.

Public resources should be invested in research that protects and improves lives—human and animal alike—not in outdated or cruel practices that inflict avoidable suffering. When dogs and cats are used in harmful experiments that offer no meaningful medical advancement, it not only undermines public trust in the scientific enterprise, but also raises serious moral concerns.

Taxpayers should not be asked to support procedures that cause pain and distress to animals we regard as companions, family members, and sentient beings worthy of humane treatment. SB 181 addresses this inconsistency by ensuring that government funds are not used to support research that the majority of the public finds ethically unacceptable.

This bill will help our state align its research priorities with advancing science, protecting animals, and honoring public values. I urge you to support SB 181 and help lead the way toward a more humane, responsible approach to research funding.

Respectfully,  
Jake Vaage

Community Organizer, Animal Rights Collective Portland (ARCPDX)