

Hello members of the committee, and all those gathered here today:

My name is K. Wood. I'm a long-time vegan and an advocate for animal sentience and welfare. Because I believe deeply in animal sentience and that it is unethical for humans to use animals for their own purposes, I cannot support SB 181 in its current form. At the same time, I strongly oppose diverting funding away from the animal research programs at OHSU. Removing these resources will not spare those creatures—you will condemn them to suffering and death without the care and oversight they now receive. When these programs close, animals are simply routinely euthanized.

While I stand against SB 181's call to eventually eliminate the ONPRC altogether, I urge this committee to:

1. Maintain funding for OHSU's animal research program so that the animals already in the system continue to be housed, monitored, and treated humanely.
2. Demand full, immediate, (and accessible) transparency—public reporting of welfare audits, research goals, and outcomes—so that taxpayers and advocates can see that every measure is taken to minimize harm.
3. Enforce the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) as binding requirements for every project, ensuring that:
 - Replacement methods (cell cultures, organ-on-a-chip, in silico modeling) are pursued and adopted wherever scientifically validated;
 - Reduction is achieved through rigorous study design and statistical power calculations, using the fewest animals necessary;
 - Refinement mandates the highest standards of enrichment, pain management, and veterinary oversight.

I join my voice to that of Sarah Taylor, PhD candidate at OHSU and president of Graduate Researchers United, who testified:

“Medical breakthrough is not possible without scientific innovation...
Our animals are the heroes behind scientific discovery and medical innovation...

We encourage questions and vow transparency, because research now is more important than ever.”

Taylor reminds us that decades of hard-won regulatory improvements—welfare regulations, ethics training, institutional oversight—reflect our collective commitment to treat research animals with care and respect. If SB 181 passes, not only will promising work on leukemia, Alzheimer's, and emerging viruses grind to a halt, but the very animals you aim to "save" will face neglect, overcrowding, or euthanasia without proper resources.

As a vegan, I recognize a moral imperative to move beyond animal models. But until fully validated alternatives can stand in for complex immunological and neurological processes, abandoning the ONPRC prematurely inflicts greater cruelty: the pain of withdrawal and the loss of life for animals who have come to rely on the skilled hands of OHSU's veterinarians and technicians.

I urge you, please:

- Vote NO on SB 181, so that OHSU's animal program can continue its work under stringent oversight.
- Amend state law to require public reporting on animal welfare metrics and 3R compliance.
- Invest in alternatives, channeling new state funds into Oregon startups and university labs developing non-animal methods—so that within our lifetimes, we can consign animal testing to history.

Thank you for your time, your thoughtful consideration, and your dedication to both scientific progress and the welfare of all sentient beings.