



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on SB 181A
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

May 15, 2025

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

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports SB 181A.

As amended, SB 181A would prohibit a research facility from using public funds to directly fund medically unnecessary laboratory research on dogs or cats that causes them serious pain or distress.

Dogs and cats are our most common companion animals. Most people recognize that they experience pain and suffering, have emotions and have relationships (with us as well as other animals). They should not be subjected to pain and distress for the sake of unnecessary laboratory research. SB 181A would generally prevent that from happening, at least with "public funds."

SB 181A also should be extended to other animals, including primates at the National Primate Research Center at OHSU. Other animals, including primates, have a high degree of sentience and experience pain and suffering. They should likewise not be subjected to medically unnecessary research that causes them significant pain and distress. As suggested at the public hearing, OHSU should be required to come up with a plan to close its primate center.

SB 181A also could be improved by requiring that painful and distressing procedures on dogs and cats for "veterinary education" be "[f]or the benefit of the animal," as the bill would require of "veterinary research," or at least that there be some demonstration that the education cannot be accomplished with non-animal alternatives.

We also hope the principles of SB181A can be extended in the future to research using private funds. The ethics of conducting medically unnecessary research causing serious pain to dogs and cats should not depend on whether the research is funded with public or private money.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz
Director

5331 SW Macadam Ave., Ste. 258 (PMB 624) | Portland, Oregon 97202 | (503) 946-1534
info@humanevotersoregon.org | humanevotersoregon.org