



February 5, 2026

Oregon Health & Science University
Attn: Board of Directors
3225 SW Pavilion Loop MC: L101
Portland, OR 97239

Re: Support for the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC)

Dear Chair King, Vice Chair Braswell, and Members of the OHSU Board of Directors,

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) is writing ahead of the February 9th hearing on whether to begin negotiations to transition the ONPRC into a sanctuary. NABR strongly supports the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC) and urges the Board to vote no and instead clearly reaffirm its continued importance to OHSU, Oregon, and the nation's biomedical research enterprise.

The ONPRC is at the leading edge of biomedical research involving the use of nonhuman primates. The center is developing new treatments and cures to advance both human and animal health. Right now, research at the center is underway to develop a universal flu vaccine that recognizes all forms of the virus and only needs to be administered once, as well as vaccines for HIV, yellow fever and West Nile virus, treatments for neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, obesity, diabetes, and advancements in women's health.¹ These are other biomedical research breakthroughs depend on the responsible and judicious use of nonhuman primates at ONPRC and the other six national primate research centers, as indicated in recent national reports.²
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In addition, the ONPRC is leading the charge nationally in developing new non-animal models that could one day eliminate the need for animals in research. Eliminating the center would immediately end this important work.

Losing the ONPRC would be irreversible. Decades of public investment in talent, training, and infrastructure would vanish, eliminating skilled jobs and crippling OHSU's research capacity and federal competitiveness. This expertise and infrastructure cannot be rebuilt once lost.

The ONPRC is a critical national biomedical research asset.⁴ While responsible fiscal planning is necessary, any path that results in closure or dismantlement would cause irreversible harm to public health, scientific progress, and Oregon's leadership in biomedical research and innovation. In closing, we urge the Board to continue to provide robust support for the ONPRC and vote no on plans to transition it to a sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Bailey
President

¹ <https://orip.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NHP-Evaluation-and-Analysis-Final-Report-Revised-508.pdf>

² https://fbresearch-cms-bucket.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/NHP_White_Paper_Print_08_22_16_9307382852.pdf

³ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/publications/26857>

⁴ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5636196/>