



## VOTE “NO” on SB 392

**The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon strongly urges you to oppose SB 392 because it continues to carve out a sweeping exception to Oregon’s public records law regarding public funded research activities. While ACLU does not oppose redacting *home address* information, research activities should not be censored.**

**This law has been misused.** This exemption allows OHSU to redact researchers’ names on records related to the care and handling of animals (and other documents). OHSU argues exempting this information prevents the spread of “misinformation.” But there is no “misinformation” exception to the public records act. If only partial records are released, then *only* misinformation is spread because the documents are censored.

OHSU, as a public agency, should make records available even if it exposes OHSU to unfavorable media coverage or the discovery of questionable treatment of animals. It is no coincidence that the very type of information being redacted was the type of information, before this law was enacted that uncovered safety issues related to the research animals:

- ***Investigation has identified abuse of OHSU research monkeys.*** *Only* by having the name of the researcher whose monkeys were self-mutilating, was the public made aware of the serious animal abuses going on at OHSU which led to changes. This type of investigation is nearly impossible when researcher names are redacted.
- ***Watchdog groups exposed the fact that OHSU was buying dogs and cats from an animal shelter.*** Under this law the public would never have known that Clackamas County Animal Shelter was selling dogs and cats to OHSU to be used for research because it allows redaction of those who provide goods and services.

OHSU argues that researchers names are available through federal grant material so redacting documents here in Oregon makes no difference. That is not true:

- ***Oversight requires matching: researcher’s name, federal grant and approved protocols with specific animal records.*** Congress passed the Animal Welfare Act mandating protection of research animals but SB 392 prevents oversight by watchdog groups because they cannot review whether a researcher’s authorized protocols match the particular animal records.

**This law goes too far in the name of public safety.** OHSU continues to allow the names, photographs and information on individual researchers’ activities on its web site, but at the same time it is asking you to allow them to pick and choose what documents it releases.

**OHSU has discriminated against lawful animal rights organizations’ public record requests.** Only after discovering OHSU’s policy that explicitly restricts access to records by animal rights’ organizations (in contradiction to ORS 192.420) OHSU now claims it treats everyone the same. There is no proof or oversight; OHSU alone will continue to decide.