

# PhysiciansCommittee

for Responsible Medicine

PCRM.ORG

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April 4, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Community Review Board and the OHA:

Thank you for carefully examining the OHSU-Legacy Health merger. A major consideration has been the nearly quarter-billion dollars in assets that could be freed up by the closure of the primate facility and, just as importantly, the looming research funding cuts that make the primate center an ever-bigger liability. I appreciate your discussion on this issue to date.

You are, of course, cognizant of your primary responsibility, which is to represent the community, including the more than ten thousand Oregonians who have already posted comments calling for a humane and orderly closure of the primate center, with virtually no contrary voice. The CRB obviously cannot ethically fail to bring forward this viewpoint. Nonetheless, major decisions sometimes lead to reticence, and you may be feeling that way about the primate center, even though Harvard University showcased a successful step-by-step transition away from its primate research center and the benefits it achieved ten years ago.

**Here is an optional path forward:**

Let me suggest that the CRB formally allow the Governor and the Oregon Health Authority to examine the issues regarding closure of the primate center, giving full consideration to financial issues, the employees, the animals, and the timing so as to be humane, orderly, and fair to all concerned. Let me suggest that you take this practical step, so that your work can be appropriately discharged.

Sincerely,



Neal D. Barnard, MD  
President