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Dear Dr. Ray and Dr. Robertson:

I understand Oregon State University and Oregon Health & Science University invest public tax dollars in experiments to modify the hormones of “gay sheep” and influence their sexual preference.

OHSU experimenter Charles Roselli doses fetal sheep with drugs to mutate sex hormones in their brains. He dissects the brains of rams considered “male-oriented” to uncover the hormonal system responsible for homosexual inclination and alter it. OSU’s Frederick Stormshak implants estrogen mechanisms into “gay sheep” in a similar attempt to render them heterosexual.

In addition to wasting tax dollars on a study that assumes homosexuality is “curable,” these multimillion-dollar experiments are profoundly unscientific and inhumane. I am appalled Oregon State validates them as a means to produce prenatal therapy for diverse sexual orientations.

Please end this homophobic study in which animals needlessly suffer and die. In general, science derived from lab-manipulated animals does not result in predictive extrapolation to humans. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, 52% of animal-tested drugs are recalled or relabeled due to serious adverse effects not detected prior to approval. Animal-to-human inaccuracy is behind the rise in ADRs (adverse drug reactions), the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S.

I urge you to phase out animal experiments whenever possible. Cost-effective non-animal systems are rapidly replacing old-fashioned animal studies. Options range from cell and tissue cultures, structure-activity relationship models, genetic/protein analysis...to epidemiology, videos and mathematical modeling, virtual organs and 3-D models, clinical research, human brain mapping technologies, autopsy/biopsy studies, advanced MRI imaging, and a multitude of other progressive tools.

The slaughter of sheep to “reverse” homosexuality in humans squanders tax dollars. Moreover, medical professionals have denounced the experiments. Dr. Malgosia Cegielski, a psychologist in Portland, labels them “frivolous” and “frightening.”

“I don’t see any clinical utility or human benefit with what he’s doing... The gene expression and biological differences at a cellular level between [nonhuman] animals and humans is so huge. To draw conclusions between animal behavior [and] humans is a joke,” Dr. Cegielski says.

Thank you in advance for making the responsible decision to discontinue “gay sheep” experiments.

Sincerely,