

**SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**AB 2296 (Mullin), as Amended August 11, 2008**

August 14, 2008

**Testimony of M.R.C. Greenwood**

Chancellor Emerita, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Professor of Nutrition, University of California, Davis  
Past-President, American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Former Provost, University of California  
Former Associate Director of Science, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

*[Remarks as prepared for delivery; not an official transcript]*

Good morning, Madame Chair and members of the committee. My name is M.R.C. Greenwood, and I am the Chancellor Emerita of UC Santa Cruz, a professor of nutrition at UC Davis, and have had a number of science policy positions at the national level. I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to speak in strong support of AB 2296 representing our UC researchers. In particular, I want to thank Assemblymember Mullin for all the hard work he has done in carrying this extremely important legislation that would begin to protect California's academic researchers from unlawful, unwarranted, and violent attacks. Passage of AB 2296 would send a strong message that Californians will not tolerate this campaign of terror.

While my testimony does cover the legal, appropriate, and humane use of animals in research, the main point that I want to make today is that AB 2296 is NOT about animal welfare or animal rights. AB 2296 is about scientists at California colleges and universities needing protection for their families and neighbors from domestic terrorists who are violently attacking them for carrying out academic work that is lawful, part of their academic responsibilities, and critical to the advancement of knowledge that benefits all of us.

The discovery, creation, and dissemination of new knowledge is the core mission of California's colleges and universities, public and private. University research, including research involving the use of animals, has contributed significantly to the discovery and development of critical scientific breakthroughs and medical therapies that improve both human and animal health.

Lately, however, the freedom of scientists to pursue their research, and the advancement of science and medicine, is being attacked by anonymous radical animal rights terrorists who seek to stop lawful academic research through harassment, threats, and violence. Firebombings at the homes of two UC Santa Cruz faculty members appear to be the latest in a series of incidents targeting scientists whose research involves animals. In one case, a firebomb ignited the front door of a faculty member's home, filling the house with smoke. The faculty member, his wife and two young children escaped on a ladder from a second-story window of the home. Around the same time, a vehicle parked in another UC Santa Cruz faculty member's driveway was destroyed by a firebomb. Fortunately no one was seriously injured by these violent acts. However, I fear that it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt, or even killed, because of the research they perform, or merely because they live in the same home as one of the "targets."

This campaign of violence is having a significant impact on the research community, not just at UC Santa Cruz, but at other UC campuses and universities across California and the nation. In addition to the fear and harassment with which some faculty members and their families must live with every day, other, not yet "targeted" faculty members, are hesitant to discuss research projects involving animals out of fear for their personal safety and the safety of their families. In fact, some researchers who have been targeted were unwilling to come here today to tell their stories out of the fear of

reprisals and the potential danger to their families and neighbors. I am here on their behalf and I wish I hope I can convey to you a sense of the terrorism these researchers and their families face. They have sent me emails telling me that they are being forced to make the choice between standing up to the intimidation and risking the safety of their very young children. Tragically, one brilliant UCLA scientist withdrew from his research with animals after he and his young family were subjected to repeated attacks at their home.

These scientists are devoted to their work and are passionate about the potential benefits their research brings to society, but when faced with attacks such as these, they are now forced to weigh the potential benefits their research can bring to society against the potential danger to their families. When such work is disrupted by the actions of terrorists, the deleterious impact on important research can be significant and can delay the development of greatly-needed and potentially lifesaving therapies. Scientists working lawfully should not have to choose between their life and their work.

UCLA Police Chief Karl Ross and Sergeant Karen Alberts from the UC Berkeley police department are here today and can testify further about the terror our faculty and their families have faced. In addition, we have brought a summary of incidents where UC researchers have been threatened, targeted, and attacked. [2005-08 summary: [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/animalresearch/UC%20animal%20research%20incidents%202005-08%20--%20August%202008.pdf](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/animalresearch/UC%20animal%20research%20incidents%202005-08%20--%20August%202008.pdf)]

The University of California actively supports the humane and responsible use of animals for the purposes of advancing knowledge and improving human and animal health. Animal research is subject to strict federal and state regulation designed to ensure humane and ethical treatment of animals. Proposed research projects must undergo a rigorous review process; once approved, they are subject to ongoing and stringent oversight. As a University system we are committed to ensuring that we employ the highest standards of animal care, safety and health, in full compliance with ethical principles and laws and regulations at the institutional, federal, state and local levels.

But as I said at the beginning – there are plenty of opportunities to discuss issues of animal welfare. AB 2296 is not about animal welfare – it is about protecting the rights of researchers to do the work that we pay them to do and that we need to advance as a society,

While federal, state, and local law enforcement continue to investigate the attacks against UC faculty, and they are doing excellent work, to this day no one has been charged in any of the UCLA or UC Santa Cruz firebombings. I believe that AB 2296 is a critically important first step towards giving law enforcement and the research community the legal tools necessary to help investigate offenders and combat the unlawful tactics of these terrorists.

On behalf of UC and our students, faculty, and staff who are at the forefront of scientific and medical discovery, I respectfully ask for your “aye” vote on AB 2296. Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.