

May 22, 2015

Maria Hernandez, Committee Assistant  
Via email: maria.i.hernandez@state.or.us

**Subject:**

**HB 3494-A OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED - Senate Committee on Human Services & Early Childhood**

Hearing date: May 26, 2015

Madam Chair and members of the Senate Committee Human Services and Early Childhood:

I am writing to ask you to OPPOSE HB 3494-A UNLESS AMENDED TO REMOVE ALL NON-THERAPEUTIC EXCEPTIONS.

This bill, if passed, could be unenforceable. Worse, it legitimizes devocalization and declawing of pets — acts of cruelty—as acceptable practices under the law.

Oregon HB 3494-A would harm efforts to effectually end declawing (and devocalization, which the bill also deals with) because:

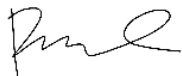
It allows exceptions that are giant loopholes and that would not stop veterinarians from finding ways to declaw and devocalize as usual. It would codify the status quo.

This bill, if used as model legislation, could invalidate the anti-declaw laws in place in California and set back the efforts to effect real change to end declawing by 20 years.

The reason that Oregon veterinarians are not opposing is not because the bill is "flying under the radar." It is because this is a **gift** to the vets and will not substantively change the way they currently practice.

Please OPPOSE HB 3494-A UNLESS AMENDED TO REMOVE ALL NON-THERAPEUTIC EXCEPTIONS.

Thank you for your consideration.



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