

Dear Committee Assistant Ms. Hernandez,

Re: HB3494-A meeting May 26

I'm writing today to compel the committee to oppose HB3494-A unless amended to strip it of any waivers, exclusions, or exemptions to the illegality of declawing and devocalization. Both of these practices are deplorable, and inhumane. As Oregonians, we should be taking action to set an example for the rest of the country, rather than legitimizing these practices by allowing for them in certain circumstances.

My five-year-old cat Lucy was declawed before I got her at the age of about one year old. I've never known a more anxious, fearful, and insecure animal. Though I know little about her history, I know she was surrendered by her owner to a shelter in Austin, TX. It was about a year before she would let me pet her. She still hisses at any stranger that tries to pet her. She's bit me twice. As she no longer has her primary means of defense, she's taken to using the only other one she has. I'm sure there were other factors that have contributed to Lucy's current disposition, but I'm sure having her digits hacked off at the last knuckle didn't help.

I would urge you to amend this bill to disallow any procedure that intentionally harms a pet for no medical reason whatsoever. Please consider this testimony when making your decision today. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mark J. McNamara

Portland, OR