

Dear Ms. Hernandez,

It is my hope that my words reach you and that the public opinion is able to coerce lawmakers to amend HB 3494-A. I work at an animal shelter that has helped to move this bill forward and I am 100% percent behind the ban of declawing and devocalization. However, HB 3494-A does not rid our peaceful state of Oregon from veterinarians who support declawing and devocalization.

It has come to my attention that there are 150 veterinarians in the state of Oregon who are willing to perform both procedures and modify the natural anatomy of our furry companions for their owner's convenience. HB 3494-A will allow these 150 veterinarians who already support declawing/devocalization to make the final decision as to whether the procedure should be followed through. This makes it so there is no change in their policies at all. How will Oregon enforce such a bill? As it does not change the veterinarians use of surgical alterations at all. How will Oregon enforce the pro-declaw doctors to educate their clients before performing the surgery?

HB 3494-A contains unacceptable loopholes and will not be able to protect our pets. Several cities in California have successfully banned declaw and devocalization from animal clinics completely. Why would Oregon choose not to follow compassion? Especially after passing a recent bill that animals in abuse cases are victims and no longer property. How can we stand by the unnecessary harm and say that these animals are not victims? There is no amount of research that shows that cats are typically unaffected by these procedures.

It is well known that cats are excellent at hiding their weakness' so not to be seen as prey. Thus, the pixie project focuses on large cats, a scale of pain that is noticable by the human eye.

Please, please consider amending this bill as I do NOT support it. This bill is completely useless and does not keep veterinarians and their owners from performing an unnessecary surgery.

Unfortunately I am not able to attend the public hearing scheduled for May 26th at 3pm for this bill. However, I want to do my part and notify lawmakers that the public, an animal shelter worker, does not support this bill. Thank you for reading.

Signed,

Chelsea Leigh Howard