



2500 SW 336th St. * Federal Way WA 98023 * 253-874-2012

May 28th, 2015

Honorable Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services & Early Childhood

RE: HB 3494-A OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Meeting Date: June 2nd

Dear Senator Gelser:

I am a practicing veterinarian who has been in practice for 20 years focused solely on the care and well-being of cats. I own a practice that focuses only on companion cats in the Seattle-Tacoma area. I have spent my entire professional career dedicated not only to this species, but also to their human caregivers who seek advice on the most up to date and highest quality caregiving constructs for their cats. Along with many of my colleagues whom you have heard from, I too feel very strongly that anything that is put into law which is supportive of declawing cats is unconscionable.

Unfortunately, although proponents of this bill would have you believe that the bill does put limits on these barbaric procedures, the wording in the bill codifies and legitimizes unscientific, outdated, and speculative reasons for declawing. Unless amended, this bill will put into public acceptance inhumane convenience surgeries that a large number of well-respected veterinary professionals throughout the world consider to be substandard and criminal. For this reason, I would ask that you oppose this bill in its current form.

Sincerely,

Craig Tebeau, DVM

The Cat Doctor Veterinary Center
Paw Project Director Washington State