



Senate Committee on Human Services & Early Childhood

State Capitol

900 Court St NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 3494-A

Dear Senators:

My name is Dr. Kirsten Doub. I am a veterinarian and veterinary practice owner in Cottonwood Heights, Utah. I am writing to ask you to oppose HB 3494-A as it is written and to amend it to effectively prohibit the inhumane procedures performed on animals specifically known as declawing of cats and devocalization of dogs.

In the veterinary literature and in my personal experience treating cats in my practice and as the head of the Utah local branch of The Paw Project, declawing of cats is completely medically unnecessary. Due to the surgical haste and unsterility that is common place with the declaw procedure, I have personally had to go back in and fix over 20 botched declaws that were performed by Utah DVMs. The procedure comes with a ridiculously high frequency of complications which result in life-long pain with ambulation and unwanted behavior. Local animal shelters and rescue organizations report a significant number of declawed cats who are relinquished for behavioral problems. Many of these declawed cats will not even be considered adoptable or given a chance for a second home based 100% on their increased tendency to bite and suffer from inappropriate urination as a result of the declaw procedure.

I urge you to oppose HB 3494-A as written. Cats are family members and should not be permanently modified, including the maiming of their claws, to fit an owner's needs. In professional opinion, declawing is never medically necessary.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Doub, DVM

Owner, Union Park Veterinary Hospital