



May 31, 2015

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. Aubrey Joseph Lavizzo. I am a veterinarian and veterinary practice owner in Denver CO and the Colorado state director of the international animal welfare organization Paw Project which has members in Oregon. I am writing in opposition to HB 3494-A as it is written and to ask that you amend it to effectively prohibit the inhumane procedures performed on animals specifically known as declawing of cats and devocalization of dogs. The scheduled hearing date for HB 3494-A is Tuesday, June 2, 2015.

In the case of declawing of cats numerous reports in veterinary literature indicate the frequency of complications resulting in life-long pain and dysfunctional behavior and ambulation, and reports from animal shelters and rescue organizations indicate that a significant number of declawed cats are indeed relinquished for behavioral problems resulting from the declawing procedure, including biting and inappropriate urination.

Also, contrary to the implication that cat scratches are a significant cause of harm to immune-compromised persons, reports from the Centers of Disease Control suggest that immune-compromised persons are more likely to develop secondary infections from the handling of feces of animals, whatever the species.

Therefore I again urge you to oppose HB 3494-A as written on the grounds that it mistakenly targets cats as the cause of injury and illness in people and damage to property, and in so doing actually legitimizes cruelty to these animals.

Sincerely,

Aubrey J Lavizzo, DVM
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The Paw Project – Colorado Director
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