



Cat Care Clinic

9512 Haver Way ✦ Indianapolis, IN 46240 ✦ Ph.317.844.CATS ✦ www.catcareclinic.com

5/31/15

Dear Ms. Hernandez,

I am writing in regards to the hearing of HB-3494 on June 2, 2015. I urge you to vote no on HB-3494 unless amended to remove the provisions that will allow declawing to continue. I am writing as a feline-only veterinarian and as a director of a non-profit organization with members in Oregon. The language used will perpetuate the inhumane practice of declawing in your state. The surgery dismembers cats and can leave them in a life of pain.

I disagree with the unfounded premise that declawing saves lives. There is much credible and compelling evidence that declawing can cause behavioral problems (e.g., aggression and litter box avoidance), which are more likely to land a cat in the shelter (where it is likely to die) than would unwanted scratching (which can usually be prevented by one of a number of humane alternatives). I believe that the net effect of declawing is that declawed cats are MORE likely to lose their homes than would non-declawed cats. Declawing has been illegal in eight California cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, for over 5 years and has not resulted in an increase in the relinquishment of cats for unwanted scratching.

With zoonotic disease training and a Master's Degree in Public Health, I can tell you without hesitation that declawed cats bite more leading to much more serious consequences to humans than scratches, especially to those that may be immunocompromised. Declawed cats tend to be more aggressive and act out due to pain. There is NO evidence that declawing is significantly effective in protecting human health. The CDC, NIH, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and US Public Health Services have published statements that declawing of cats "is not recommended" to prevent the transmission of disease from animals to the most immunocompromised of people, those infected with HIV. Recently, the Canadian Medical Association Journal also published an article, stating that declawing of cats should not be done to protect human health.

I urge you to reconsider this bill and to remove the provisions allowing this painful and medically unnecessary surgery to continue in Oregon.

Sincerely,

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