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Testimony of Humane Oregon on House Bill 2732 (2017)
House Committee on Judiciary

March 28, 2017

Chair Barker, Vice Chair Olson, Vice Chair Williamson, and members of the Committee:

Humane Oregon is a bi-partisan, non-profit organization formed in 2014 to help advocate for animal welfare in Oregon's political process and elections. We are a moderate but progressive animal welfare organization, with board members from many different parts of Oregon's animal welfare community.

Humane Oregon supports HB2732, a good Samaritan bill that would enable an individual to rescue a pet or child from imminent danger of harm in a parked motor vehicle (including most obviously overheating), without fear of criminal or civil liability. The release from liability has common sense restrictions; the good Samaritan must notify law enforcement or emergency services before entering the vehicle, minimize the damage from entering the vehicle, and wait with the rescued pet or child for law enforcement or emergency services to arrive.¹ If made law, this bill could help save people and animals alike from unnecessary suffering and harm.

Thank you for considering our comments.

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¹ On minor suggestion we would make is that the bill provide for a situation in which law enforcement or emergency services declines to respond to the call or fails to do so within a reasonable time. For example, the bill could require the person taking action to wait with the animal, in that situation, only until the driver of the vehicle returns. Also, Section 1(2) should be revised to clarify that not all of the listed actions are required to occur "before entering the motor vehicle."