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SB 1035 Tax Deduction for Adoption of Dog or Cat

Senator Hass and members of the committee

For an earlier bill I collected figures for dog and cat adoptions in Oregon in 2016. It takes time as many organizations are small or have volunteer staffing. Without contacting many areas of the state I have been able to find about 33,800 adoptions last year so far.

Through Wings of Rescue I have been able to identify at least 8 shelters in Oregon that have received dogs from them. These pets come from various areas. Pets received include Canaan dogs from the Middle East. There is another rescue that works with dogs from Thailand. I have not been able to find figures on the numbers but found at least one shelter in Oregon that took those dogs.

It seems that there is a check off that would allow taxpayers to donate all or a portion of their tax refund to the Oregon Humane Society. I don't know if the OHS shares any of those monies with other shelters in the state. A check off for folks to share their refund with spay and neuter clinics could be implemented.

If we are concerned about animals, reducing the number of stray and "community" pets through spay and neuter clinics would be a better use of tax payer dollars.

We see no benefit to giving tax deductions in reward for an action that would take place absent the tax credit. Since deductions are substantially used by tax filers in the higher brackets, we do not see this bill as enabling many moderate income households to adopt pets.

With just my initial figures, we would be allowing \$6.7 million in tax deductions at a time we are searching for money to keep teachers employed, looking for ways to help in the housing crisis and providing adequately for those in our state who suffer from mental illness places to call home and receive treatment.

Please do not move forward this deduction from personal income taxes.

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Commented [MK1]: moderate

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