

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a constituent on Senate District 18 and House District 36 where I both live, work, and own a dog training business in these districts. I ask you to support House Concurrent Resolution 16 which would make rescue shelter dogs our Oregon State dog.

I support this resolution because our shelters, especially those funded by taxpayer, should have every tool available to them to rehome animals. HCR 16 will help encourage Oregonians to adopt from shelters, reduce the duration of time that dogs spend in shelter, reduce euthanasia rates, and in turn reduce the compassion fatigue of rescue workers while reducing operational costs of shelters. Similarly progressive resolutions have been passed in California, Georgia, and Colorado. Honoring shelter dogs does not only honor the dogs themselves, but the very hard working folks that work in our shelters, dealing with heartbreak and back breaking work on a daily basis.

Additionally, I ask that you to oppose Senate Concurrent Resolution 4, which would make the Border Collie our state dog. As dog professionals, we know that Border Collies have extremely high work and predatory drives that must be expressed to prevent the sort of behavior problems that result in their relinquishment to shelters such as nuisance barking, chasing, and leg nipping. These behaviors are useful for working Border Collies that herd sheep, but a detriment to Border Collies living in urban and suburban contexts in close proximity to neighbors, children, and pet cats. Very few dog owners have the time and resources to meet the unique needs of this herding breed. Peer reviewed literature in the fields of applied animal behavior and veterinary behaviorism repeatedly confirm the issues that arise when dogs do not have their drive needs met. I do not want our state to endorse or encourage Oregonians to buy Border Collies because professionally speaking, I know many of these dogs will end up in shelters, costing tax payers money, and causing harm to the well being of these dogs. Border Collies are bred to be working dogs and should not be promoted as ideal pets by any state agency.

Finally, HCR16 embraces the most American value of acceptance and inclusiveness for all, regardless of genetics, origins, and pedigree, which is increasingly important in our current political climate. Every breed of dog is represented among the shelter dog population and we should honor their diversity as a reflection of our own. Every Oregonian can own a shelter dog without having to discriminate by pedigree or genetic origin.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I appreciate all that you do on behalf of Oregon and thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,
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