



Date: April 26, 2017

To: **House Committee on Rules**
House Democratic Leader Jennifer Williamson, Chair
House Republican Leader Mike McLane, Vice-Chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Vice-Chair
Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Jodi Hack
Representative Paul Holvey
Representative Bill Kennemer
Representative Rob Nosse
Representative Barbara Smith Warner

From: **Sharon Harmon**
CEO, Oregon Humane Society

Re: **House Concurrent Resolution 16**

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society (OHS) is the state's largest and oldest animal welfare organization with over 50,000 supporters statewide. We are not affiliated with any local or national organization.

We urge you to support HCR 16.

On July 21, 2006, a purebred Australian Shepherd was picked up as a stray by the Humane Society of the Ochocos in Prineville, Oregon. The Australian Shepherd was transported to the Oregon Humane Society through our Second Chance Program, which transfers adoptable dogs that would be euthanized at shelters with less space, resources, and visitors to OHS. After arriving in Portland, the Australian Shepherd was named "Savvy" and adopted into a love home with two new feline friends. Once a stray dog without a home, Savvy is now a beloved family member and four time champion of the Doggie Dash Frisbee Competition. Savvy's story is reflective of many resilient Oregonians that overcome adversity and hardship to create better lives for themselves and become productive members of our society.



Savvy, May 2012

Not only do shelter dogs embody the perseverance and strength of Oregonians, they are representative of the types of dogs Oregonians choose to welcome into their homes. Oregonians adopt over 18,000 rescued shelter dogs every year. Since 2010, the Oregon Humane Society has adopted over 11,000 animals every year, and we are far from the only animal shelter in Oregon. Clearly, there is a strong demand for shelter dogs in Oregon. By designating shelter dog as the state dog of Oregon, the legislature will be choosing a dog that represents many households across the state.

By declaring shelter dogs as the Official State Dog of Oregon, the Oregon Legislature will be choosing a dog that represents Oregon households and the diversity and resilience of Oregonians.

Please vote YES on HCR 16.

Sincerely,

Sharon Harmon
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