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Testimony for HB 4045

Thank you for letting me provide testimony regarding the use of puppy mill puppies in Pet stores in Oregon. I have always loved animals, beginning with rescuing wildlife that my father would bring home from construction sites he worked on when I was a young girl. When I was 18 years old, I took a job at a pet store in the mall as a groom and cleaning cages and caring for the puppies and other animals in the store.

My first week there, I noticed a small cocker spaniel puppy in a box in the back room that was coughing. When I inquired about the puppy, I was told by the owner that they could not treat the puppy due to losing profit on the animal. I was shocked and asked him if I could take the puppy home to see if I could help the animal, and he agreed, saying I could have her. I spend the money I made in the pet store to take her to a vet and get her treated. The puppy, that I had named "Sugertime" due to her kind and loving nature, made a fully recovery, but I realized how poorly these animals were treated and soon left my job at the pet store and vowed I would never buy a pet in these places again.

By passing this bill for dog and puppy pet store sales only from animals directly from legitimate rescues in Oregon, you send a strong message of compassion and accountability for animals that have no voice. Oregon has a long tradition of humane practices for animals in our state, and this is one more piece of legislation that will help prevent cruelty and neglect that is a real problem with pet store sales.

Sincerely,

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