



Date: February 17th, 2019

To: House Committee On Judiciary
House Democratic Leader Jennifer Williamson, Chair

From: Sharon Harmon
President and CEO, Oregon Humane Society

Re: House Bill 2227

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society 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 are here today to ask for your support of HB 2227.**

Oregonians care about animals. Without hesitation, they speak up and seek help for animals who are being mistreated. The call for help is often answered by the animal control officers who work hard to ensure the people and pets in our communities live safely together.

Animal control officers visit homes every day to check on the welfare of animals. Each day they interact with pet-owning families and are afforded a unique opportunity to witness what life is like for the animal and human family members alike. At times, they may be the only "outsider" to do so.

All too often, when children live in a home where animals are mistreated, the mistreatment doesn't stop with the animals – the children suffer the same fate. With your support, animal control officers can do something about it. Their training and experience provides the tools to recognize neglect and abuse, their contact with families allows the opportunity to witness concerns, and through the passage of HB 2227, animal control officers can and shall speak up and seek help for vulnerable children experiencing cruelty in our community.

Please vote 'yes' for HB 2227.

Sincerely,

Sharon Harmon
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