



**Testimony of Kimberly McCullough, Policy Director  
In Support of SB 495  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
February 21, 2019**

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon<sup>1</sup> supports SB 495, which would prohibit the use of police canines to intimidate, control or punish people who are incarcerated in Oregon jails and prisons. Included in this prohibition would be the use of dogs to extract individuals from jail and prison cells.

The use of a fierce animal to control an imprisoned person is inherently degrading, and there is a common understanding among the majority of corrections professionals that the use of dogs for cell extractions is neither necessary nor appropriate since there are always better and equally effective alternatives.

Using dogs for cell extractions also results in unnecessary injury to incarcerated persons, tends to escalate situations that would be better managed through the use of de-escalation techniques, and can be deeply traumatic for people who are being subjected to a canine cell extraction, other incarcerated individuals in the vicinity, and corrections officers.

Human Rights Watch issued a report in all the way back in 2006 titled "Cruel and Degrading: The Use of Dogs for Cell Extractions in U.S." At that time, HRW identified Iowa and Connecticut as the only two states in the U.S. that used canines for cell extractions. The report provides helpful context for this discussion, so we are submitting it with this testimony.

The ACLU of Oregon urges you to support SB 495. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

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<sup>1</sup> The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 45,000 members and supporters statewide.