



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Testimony By: Joyce Brake, on behalf of the Humane Society of the U.S.
Presented To: Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
In Support Of: SB 268, Pet Adoption Income Tax Subtraction
Date: February 26, 2019

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen, and Members of the committee:

My name is Joyce Brake, and I'm here to support SB 268 on behalf of the Humane Society of the U.S. and its Oregon members and supporters.

Incentives like the tax subtraction in SB 268 will encourage pet adoptions, help move homeless animals more quickly through the shelter system, and ultimately decrease expenses associated with daily animal care. We can all support the innovative approach of encouraging animal adoptions through tax subtractions. Each day that an adoptable animal lingers in a shelter means additional expenditures. Oregon's taxpayers ultimately shoulder the costs of providing shelter and food for homeless animals in the state's municipal and other publicly-owned animal shelters. So incenting more Oregonians to adopt pets into loving homes directly benefits our state's taxpayers.

This bill provides a tax subtraction for those caring individuals and families who choose to adopt an animal from a shelter, animal control facility, or rescue in the state. Every year, animal shelters across the country provide care for 6-8 million dogs and cats, and sadly, 2.4 million healthy, adoptable pets are euthanized because they do not find homes. While Oregon is already a national leader in finding homes for the overwhelming majority of shelter animals, our shelters still struggle to find new homes for each and every pet. This tax subtraction will serve as another critical tool to help ensure no healthy, adoptable pet is ever euthanized in an Oregon shelter.

In conclusion, SB 268 is a thoughtful and innovative way to promote adoption of homeless animals. SB 268 also sends a clear, tangible message to our nation that Oregon cares about pets and the people who love them. We urge you to vote yes on SB 268. Let's make Oregon the first state in the nation to use tax subtractions to publicly encourage the adoption of homeless animals in our state.

Thank you for considering our position on this legislation.