

Dear Senate and Committee Members:

I am a concerned constituent and a volunteer for HSUS in Hillsboro/Aloha and would kindly like to ask for your support of HB 2804 prohibiting pet stores in Oregon from selling pets that are sourced from puppy mills and non-reputable breeders and require local pet stores source pets from our rescues and shelters who are full of pets in need of loving homes. We know it cuts down on the rate of euthanizing animals and we know it will help our local rescues and shelters finding forever homes.

As you know, the passage of this bill is so important in our state to protect animals from the cruel nature in which animals are kept in puppy mills or non-reputable breeders and the health problems that can occur for these animals that are then sold to consumers unknowingly only to have the pet seriously ill or even succumb to death causing the consumer more expense or heartbreak should the pet not survive. We all know, there are a whole host of problems that can occur as a result of allowing pets from puppy mills to be sold in our pet stores which I feel does need to be regulated. I do wish animals were not referred to as simply "products", they are sentient living beings with feelings and emotions who deserve to be treated as such for their health and safety. That is why it is time for Oregon to require pet stores to source pets from rescues and shelters because we know rescues monitor their animals and require that the pet is seen by a vet to make sure they are up to date on shots and receive health checkups etc. I know this because I work with local rescues/shelters in this state and I know first hand the amount of time and resources they put into making sure their animals receive the proper care and health and wellness check-ups before placing their animals up for adoption and also require a lifetime return policy for any reason. I have never heard that a pet store who sources their animals from an outside source offer any of these options which is something to take into consideration. I do feel, because we are talking about the health and welfare of animals we do need to offer some sort of regulation because these are animals lives that are at stake here and I do feel Oregon cares about how our animals are treated, where they are sourced from and if they knew our local pet stores could potentially support animals from inhumane sources then we could be setting up a terrible path we do not want to take.

I do hope that Oregon can follow suit with other states in passing this bill requiring our pet stores to support and source their animals from our local rescues and shelters to help reduce our homeless pet population.

Thank you for your consideration in support of HB 2804.
Erin Goetz

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