

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of HB 2915

February 13th, 2023

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Sosa, and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor,

I wrote this to you as a former pet shop employee, former humane society volunteer, current rescue pet owner and current State Representative of House District 26.

I remember looking at the cute puppies in the window of the mall pet shop when I was a kid. It was classic cuteness. There was even a song about, “the one with the waggly tail”. Unfortunately, the question we should be asking ourselves is not “How much is that doggie in the window?”, as in the song, but rather, [“Is that doggie from a responsible breeder?”](#) Ethical business is good business, and the sale of cats and dogs in retail pet stores is outdated at best and inhumane at worst.

HB 2915 takes a humane and compassionate step in preventing retail pet stores from selling puppies and kittens. The bill would not have an impact on small scale, private breeders who work directly with adoptive families.

Our domestic animal population is out of control. Every year, thousands of dogs and cats are bred for hobby and profit. Nationally, it is estimated that in 2019, [over 5 million dogs and cats were taken into rescue shelters](#) across the nation.

As a Blue Mountain Humane Society volunteer in the early 2000s, I saw the challenges of the overpopulation of dogs and cats. I will never forget when our shelter manager shared her career goal of working herself out of a job. By this she meant that she was working hard to reduce overbreeding and overpopulation by providing spay and neuter funding and services.

Rescues are an increasingly reliable way to ensure a loving home for unplanned litters of puppies. If we are serious about valuing the lifesaving work of our shelters, then we must not incentivize overbreeding and irresponsible sales practices. **Oregon is likely to make shelter pets our state pet this legislative session, but it's not because we want more animals in shelters; rather, we want to foster a culture of ensuring they go swiftly to good homes.** If a breeder is not following best practices for breeding, then they are just creating inventory, and that is something we undoubtedly have enough of already.

Oregon is ready to join the many other states and hundreds of jurisdictions nationwide who have already banned the practice and prioritized the humane treatment of animals. This bill is aligned with compassionate business practices and public sentiment. HB 2915 will further drive the pet market toward humane shelters, rescues, and responsible breeders.

I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Rep Courtney Neron

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

House District 26
Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain