



Friends of Lincoln County Animals
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March 8, 2023 / 12:00 noon

TO: Oregon State Senate Committee on Health
RE: SB 559
POSITION: Oppose

As president of FOLCAS, I have viewed the videotape of the public hearing held at 1:00 pm Monday, March 6, on SB 559; have read the testimony submitted by Barbara Perry, president of the board of directors of our partner organization, the Central Coast Humane Society, and others; and have asked my fellow members of the FOLCAS board of directors to do the same.

The FOLCAS board is in agreement that SB 559 is an ill-advised measure, and they have authorized me to submit this testimony on behalf of FOLCAS:

1. FOLCAS endorses the testimony previously submitted by Barbara Perry of the Central Coast Humane Society and incorporates it into this document by reference.
2. SB 559 would cause harm to animals by making it more costly and difficult for people to obtain veterinary care for their pets and livestock, whereas its proponents would have us believe that the bill would curb animal abuse. It appears that in introducing this bill, Senator Gelser Blouin is relying to an undue extent on a single anecdotal news article alleging that substance abusers are intentionally harming their pets in order to obtain prescription medications. The testimony of the veterinary community refutes this argument and makes it clear that if such instances have occurred, they are extremely rare, and that in any event, the quantity and dosage of controlled medications issued by DVMs for animal patients are minuscule in comparison to those issued by MDs to human patients and do not contribute in any significant way to human substance abuse.
3. We note on page 6 of the document presented by Ian Green on behalf of the Secretary of State that on the chart of measures taken by the western states to curb abuse of prescription medications, there are no bullets at all on the Oregon line. We suggest that most of the other measures being employed by other states would have far more effect and should be implemented in Oregon instead of this proposed measure that would do negligible good and much harm.

Thank you for your consideration.

Emily DeHuff, President
FOLCAS Board of Directors

The FOLCAS mission: To support and advance the health and well-being of domesticated animals in Lincoln County, Oregon



Friends of Lincoln County Animals, Inc. is an Oregon nonprofit corporation and an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable benefit organization, tax ID 27-0177878. Secure donations may be made on our website, www.folcas.com.