

Oregon Senate Committee on Judiciary
HB2915

Hearing April 19, 2023

1:00 PM

Members of the Committee:

I have been engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine in Oregon for nearly 50 years and have seen my fair share of sick, deformed and neglected pets sold to new owners. Some have been from pet stores but most were not. While this measure seems to be well-intentioned, it lacks any scientific statistical backing to support it. I would ask you:

- If pet stores are so bad, why grandfather them?
- Pet stores are regulated and inspected. Most other sources of pets are not. Are we trying to further drive the pet business underground?
- Yes, some pet stores have had a checkered past but now that does not seem to be the case. Why restrict them now after the issue is better controlled?
- So called “pet rescue organizations” are responsible for most of the unhealthy dogs and cats we see come into our practice.
- In fact, most unhealthy “adoptees” come from the very sources that are protected by HB2915.
- Where are the statistics that show that pet stores **currently** (we are all familiar with stories from long ago) are providing unhealthy pets at a rate higher than other commonly available sources? Note that the numbers that may be suggested around this issue are difficult to substantiate as most owners elect to keep their unhealthy pets in an effort to save them from an unsanitary source rather than return and report.

I have absolutely no vested interest in any pet or feed store but only in seeing that my clients are able to acquire a healthy pet when they want. Many of my clients have a difficult time finding the pet they want. Further restricting the supply with this misdirected measure will only lead to more non-regulated backyard breeders and other organizations importing unhealthy dogs from foreign countries. We have increasing problems with rising rates of Rabies, Influenza, and other diseases with these imports,

many of them with forged health certificates. It happens because there is a consumer demand. Why not let the regulated industry survive?

The other reason this bill is popular is simply because it attacks a small group of independent business people who do not have much of a voice. They struggle to survive economically by providing a commodity that the public requests. What a terrible idea! Perhaps when we put them all out of business, some huge corporation will swoop in and throw lots of money around to reverse this legislation so they can start importing dogs!

Please vote NO on HB2915.

Sincerely,

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