



February 12, 2024

House Committee on Judiciary

RE: House Bill 4145

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Anderson, Vice-Chair Wallan, and Committee Members:

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association supports House Bill 4145 and the subsequent provisions in the -1 amendments.

In 2019, the U.S. Congress unanimously approved landmark animal welfare regulation to outlaw the cruel and inhumane act of animal crushing. The Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act (PACT) revised and expanded federal crimes with regards to animal crushing.

Earlier this year, a Prineville man pleaded guilty to conspiracy to produce and distribute videos depicting the torture, mutilation and crushing of monkeys in exchange for money through an online chat group. House Bill 4145-1 would help to close any gaps in Oregon's law by establishing new animal cruelty crimes with respect to animal crushing and visual recording of such heinous acts.

House Bill 4145-1 also provides important safeguards to ensure it appropriately targets bad actors without incidentally ensnaring other groups. It specifically excludes any customary and normal veterinary agricultural husbandry practice; the slaughter of animals for food; hunting; fishing; pest control; wildlife management; medical and scientific research, etc.

We urge your support of House Bill 4145-1 and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn

Glenn M. Kolb
Executive Director

