

Submitter: Pauline Redon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3871

No Pet Left Behind is a 501(c)(3) organization that was established in 2016 in Jackson County Oregon. Our mission is to ensure that no Pet goes without the necessary veterinary care that it needs simply because its people can't afford the costs. We researched the need in Jackson County before we started this nonprofit to see what the need was. We contacted our local Humane Society and shelters. All we spoke to, stated the biggest need was veterinary care for animals. People would take their sick or injured animals to the shelter to surrender them, thinking that they would get the care they needed and then adopted out. That's not what happens. They usually wind up, euthanizing them, sometimes for minor injuries or illnesses. They stated if there was help financially for these people in their pets, it would relieve the burden on the shelters and Humane Society from having to take these pets, while allowing the pets to stay in their loving homes with the proper medical care. Since being established, we have helped well over 1000 animals.

Unfortunately, this is just a drop in the bucket. We have to rely on local and private donations, mostly by citizens and animal lovers. Applying for grants only to find out that because we are limited to veterinary care, we haven't been able to find any grants out there that support our mission. We are usually unable to help people whose pets have had a serious emergency, such as being hit by a car, a blockage or other serious injuries, as the emergency care is very, very expensive. In the last few years, calls from senior citizens asking for help has tripled for care for their pets. Usually, this is the only companion that they have and depend on for comfort. This is their family member, unfortunately, sometimes we are financially unable to help. This is heartbreaking and wrong, that they should lose their loving companion simply because the money is not there to get them the care they need. If we truly are trying to make the lives better for Pets and their families, this legislation is totally necessary. Our pets are our companions our family members, I can't imagine looking into their eyes and not being able to help them. When they reach out to our organization, we do the best we can to help. Sometimes the helpers need help, please pass this important legislation so we can help more of those that can't help themselves.