Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee: For the record my name is Dakota Wright and I am a 6th grade student at ACMA in Beaverton, OR. Thank you for allowing my teacher, Ms. Yeager, to present my written testimony on Senate Bill 638 today.

Last year I attended 5th grade at Elmonica Elementary in Beaverton, OR. We spent the year studying the United Nations Global Goals and were assigned a large exhibition project based on them at the end of the year. As a group we had to find a big issue that needed to be addressed.

When we first started out with the project none of us knew what we wanted to research. However, we knew we were all animal lovers and we wanted our work to benefit them. We started talking to our teacher, Ms. Yeager, and learned about animal exploitation. This is where humans use animals as entertainment or profit. We started to look at how and why this happens. This led us to a website about animal testing and some pictures of animals being tested on and we were all very sad. We wondered how people could do this? This made us feel like we had to do something.

Finally, we had chosen our topic: Animal Testing

We were overwhelmed and didn't know where to start. We soon learned that most of our products were tested on animals and this totally freaked us out. We went home that night and grabbed all the products that were not cruelty-free and brought them to school the next day. We stared looking into actual companies. Did you know that most shampoos, conditioners, body scrubs, makeup, medicine, and much more is tested on animals? Sadder yet, did you know that they test on beagles!
Beagles are forced to live indoors all day with no sunlight. They are not given dog beds or cozy blankets. They live in small cages from birth until death. During their day they are forced to take medications they do not need and forced to participate in cruel experiments. One of the pictures we saw had animals with burns across their entire body. This broke my heart and made me hurt for the animals. We thought testing on violent criminals made more sense.

Part of our assignment was to interview someone from both an animal testing laboratory and an animal rights advocate. Ms. Yeager knew of Shannon Keith

from Rescue Freedom Project, so we emailed her and later face-timed with one of their representatives. This is when we learned about the Beagle Bill. A Bill that allows these poor animals to be adopted after they leave the lab. We were surprised that Oregon hadn't already passed this. We decided to raise money and awareness.

Our first action was going o our group member, Olivia's house after school and learning to make our own soaps using cruelty-free ingredients. These were examples to show that there is a kinder alternative. Next, we made posters and held a weekend dog wash using cruelty-free dog soaps. We even got runners off the street to donate. We held out signs that said, "Honk if you want to help dogs!". It was a lot of fun. We raised money washing the teachers' dogs and our mentor, Mr. Nelson, mailed it off.

That led up to the big event which was meeting with Senator Steiner-Hayward and presenting her with our project. She has helped us with previous ideas and we trusted her. She visited our school and we had a long conversation about the beagles. We looked at pictures and watched a YouTube video of the beagles being released and rehomed. She said she was going to sponsor the bill! Over the past year, we have been in communication with each other about the Bill and working with our teacher. Our idea has even been on the news!

In closing, animals do so much for us. My cousin needs a support dog which has become her best friend. Animals are good listeners and are always there for us. Humans rely on them for so many things and in return they only desire a good home, kindness and to live their lives.

Like us, animals only have one life and it shouldn't be spent in a cage.
Every dog deserves the chance to meet their best friend.

I encourage you to please pass this Bill to show that Oregon is a kind, animal loving state.