

Good Afternoon,

I am writing in support of HB2804 which prevents puppies and kittens from being sold in pet stores.

As someone who has long been an advocate of animals, the puppy/cat mill stories have filled my eyes and ears for decades. It is a common story of greedy people who mistreat animals for a profit. What people end up with, when buying a mill pet, is an animal that has physical, health, and emotional issues. The life these mothers and offspring have leading up to the time they are sold off in pet stores, or when mothers have past their use-by date, is appalling and heartbreaking. It's an unregulated, un-monitored business that needs to end and has gone on for Far Too Long!

Millions of healthy, adoptable animals die every year in shelters. These are healthy, loving, adjusted animals in need of a home and are more than suitable for adoption. Every pet I have ever been a guardian to has been an adoption from a no-kill shelter and has largely been from pet stores who support pet adoptions in their stores. I cannot imagine my life without them! I have never and will never buy a 'bred' dog or cat from a pet store solely based on my personal ethics and values for the well-being of animals. I will give no money to a greedy person looking to make a buck of the hardship and suffering of sentient beings.

The FAQ's and historical purchase data in the attachments to this email from HSUS provide sound logic and reasoning why HB2804 is ready for Oregonians and why the time is right to advance our state into an era of responsibility to how we do business where sentient creatures are for sale as pets. People are largely starting to align their purchases and behaviors with their morality. The access to information in our time via the internet is the ultimate source of being informed and illuminates people to the reality of the 'animal business'. As people continue to learn more about puppy/cat mills and the behind the scenes horror, they will quickly want to not only distant themselves from contributing to this but will be voting with their dollars into avenues they can feel good about it. People care about their pets. I would give my life for mine. I do not want to ever think that they endured a horrible start (via intent for profit) or that another animal has been used over and over again to produce offspring in an unloving, dirty home, caged up for life with no chance at love and comfort.

Please strongly consider advancing HB2804 and create a safe haven where animals can be sold to homes in the most ethical way possible. End the inhumanity and devastation that puppy/cat mill animals endure by paving the way for humane treatment in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Crystal Elston