

March 18, 2019

Committee Members:

I am writing to urge your strong support of HB 2804 which will prevent puppies and kittens from being sold at pet stores in our state. This bill will also encourage stores to hold adoption events for rescued and abandoned animals from shelters and rescue groups.

I have spent many years on staff and as a volunteer with our local Eugene shelter, Greenhill Humane Society, as well as serving on the board of Eugene's Stray Cat Alliance and the non-profit Community Veterinary Center, and as being an advisor to Hospice Pet Advocates. In Oregon, we have tens of thousands of homeless puppies and kittens and our shelters and volunteers are often overwhelmed by this great need, struggling to survive on donations and grant funding. Pet stores not only are sabotaging shelter adoptions for profit to themselves, they very often cause harm and suffering, not only by encouraging breeding of even more animals, but by their unacceptable levels of care, including lack of spay/neuter requirements.

HB 2804 will be a welcome support to Oregon shelters and rescues and will encourage pet stores and the public to understand the pet overpopulation crisis and to be part of the humane effort to provide homes and care. I urge you to support this legislation.

Diana Huntington