

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 2804. This bill, while at its heart attempts to take on an important cause, is damaging to a beloved small business in my community, Critter Cabana of Newberg.

Small, family owned pet stores, like Critter Cabana in Newberg, are valued members of our community and will be negatively impacted, if not outright destroyed, if they cannot sell puppies, kittens, and rabbits. Critter Cabana makes a point of purchasing their pets locally, not from puppy mills. In fact, local 4-H kids sell their rabbits to the store and the store regularly displays kittens for the local animal shelter. Critter Cabana's pets are housed in great conditions, they are kept clean and engaged with tons of play and stimulation. Pets purchased at Critter Cabana are also very well socialized, they receive tons of interaction with the public and staff. I see this first hand every time my children and I visit the store to buy supplies for our pet lizards. The store is also actively engaged in our community, they donate to school auctions and participate in community events regularly. Critter Cabana is very much a beloved institute!

I also happen to be one of the veterinarians who takes care of the Critter Cabana pets. Critter Cabana's owners, the Johnsons, bring us puppies, kittens, rabbits, and other furry friends anytime they have a health concern. I have never once suspected poor care on the part of the pet store. They never fail to follow our recommendations for diagnostics and treatment and do their utmost to ensure the health of the pets in their care often at great expense. I also know that the store supports new owners absolutely, they stand behind the pets that they sell. When it comes to the health of the pets that they sell, Critter Cabana does a fabulous job.

I am sure that you will hear lots of testimony describing cold, ill pets being kept in tiny, cramped cages. This is not the case at our local pet store. Hurting family owned, small businesses like Critter Cabana by taking away a source of income is not right. I know the Johnson family, they

are good people who work hard to provide healthy, well-cared for pets to people in our community. They do a good job. Please do not pass HB 2804.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Matthiesen DVM

Family Pet Clinic of Newberg

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