



**Senate Committee on Judiciary
House Bill 2500-A
(Support)**

April 19, 2019

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Committee Members:

Pet owners in our state are obligated to sufficiently provide for the health and well-being of their animals. When an individual intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes physical injury to a domestic animal, he or she may be charged with a crime of animal abuse under existing statutes. If convicted of such a criminal act, it is appropriate that the individual should incur the expenses of veterinary care provided to the abused animal.

There is a cost to medicine – both human and veterinary. When an animal is physically harmed by abuse, the treatment protocols will be case dependent. The more serious the harm and urgency for care, the expenses for stabilizing and treating the animal are likely to be higher – similar to when a person is treated by an emergency room physician. And those who provide the treatment for the abused animal, whether it is a humane shelter, an animal control agency or a veterinarian in private practice, should be able to recover their expenses whenever possible.

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association supports House Bill 2500-A, and we are asking for your support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn

Glenn M. Kolb
Executive Director