

Chair Bynum and members of the committee, My Name is Darin Campbell, I am the Executive Director of Working Dogs Oregon. We created Working Dogs Oregon in 2015 with a goal of educating the public on Service Dogs and public businesses responsibilities around the Americans with Disabilities act. I watched my wife struggle for years to be in public with her well-trained service dog only to be attacked by dogs who were not service dogs. It was clear the public was and still is woefully unaware of the laws and we reach out to train private business, associations and anyone else who would like to learn what the laws are and what Service Dogs are. In 2016 there was an incident in Portland, PPB K9 Mick was gunned down. This horrific event gave us the idea that we need to advocate for all the things working dogs do for Oregonians.

We have Therapy Dog teams that go to schools, hospitals, hospice homes and do special events. We help train service dogs for those who would not be able to afford one otherwise with a focus on veterans. We supply any police or fire agency a victim support therapy dog to work with citizens in their worst moments who need support sometimes humans just cannot give. We have a mission to supply all certified police patrol and drug detection k9s a trauma first aid kit. Finally, our program I have the most pride in is our scholarship to provide small police agencies a fully trained patrol k9. Teaming up with Howling Creek K9s We have given two of these dogs to police, K9 Bali of Pendleton PD and K9 Gus of Central Point PD. Both dogs certified as patrol dogs in summer of 2020.

The Police K9, in my opinion, is the most important tool available to a police officer. K9 saves lives and much of what they do goes unnoticed

to the public. A k9 is a de-escalation tool in the use of force continuum. It can take \$100,000 to start a Police K9 unit and that is before they even work one single shift. The majority of that is equipment. I along with my partner at Howling Creek have traveled the state working with these and other police k9s. It takes hundreds of man hours and a significant investment financially to build a great k9 unit. One moment in time can take this most valuable resource away from a community.

I am reminded of a story told to me by members of the Bend Police k9 unit. They had a suspect they felt was a risk to the community held at gunpoint. The suspect was making threats and looked to act on them. One of the officers had the trigger of his rifle depressed 50% and was about to fire a round when other officer deployed his K9 who subdued the suspect in one quick action. That split second action by that k9 saved the life of the suspect. The suspect would later come to thank the officers involved in the call. That suspect lived because a police k9 was there to de-escalate the situation saving their community potentially millions of dollars in investigative man hours, litigation and mental health therapy for the officers involved as well as the suspects family. We must make sure we are providing these dogs with every viable option to survive an unforeseen incident; they are just that important to keeping our neighborhoods safe and serving the needs of our communities.

We have seen dogs across the country afflicted with multiple types of hazards. Heat stroke, struck by vehicles while tracking lost children and elderly, being shot, stabbed, overdoses on narcotics and riding in vehicles involved in accidents to name just a few. We have police dogs

in every corner of our state and getting a dog the help they need is of paramount importance.

I have added friendly amendments to the bill and am more than willing to work with stakeholders and committee staff on these. I understand where the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association is coming from in their amendments but there are simply things they missed.

Administering Narcan, stabilizing a broken bone. In many areas of the state help from a veterinarian is far more than an hour away and to limit the help given to a k9 under these circumstances could be cruel and torturous to the dog. A police K9 in trouble in Eastern Oregon at 2 am on a Sunday morning is not the same as a dog in trouble in downtown Salem at noon on a Tuesday and we need to keep this in mind when limiting the scope and definition of help emergency medical staff can give.

I am also asking you to consider in these amendments the addition of Search and Rescue Dogs who are assisting a law enforcement agency. These dogs are required by law to be certified by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association and must be called out by law enforcement to work on an active search. This makes sense to list these Working Dogs alongside the police K9 for medical transport.

I want to mention that I am here today testifying in honor of the bravery and courage of K9 Arlo of the Thurston County Washington Sheriff's Department who on January 13th was shot twice, rushed to an emergency vet to be operated on then taken by ambulance from Lacey Washington to the Oregon State University School of Veterinary

Medicine where he underwent several more surgeries by a neurosurgeon to remove bullets lodged near his spine. 48 hours later K9 Arlo was getting a police escort 200 miles home. Two weeks later Arlo was dancing with his handler on TikTok, a normal activity prior to the shooting and something that was in doubt of ever happening again. Now, less than four weeks later there is talk of K9 Arlo returning to work as a patrol k9. These dogs have integrity, bravery and strong desire to serve us, their humans. I hope you will get an opportunity to interact with a patrol or drug detection k9 from your district soon, something I would be more than happy to coordinate.

We owe the Oregon Police K9 a yes vote sending HB 2650 to the House floor with a do pass recommendation

House Bill 2650

Proposed amendment – Working Dogs Oregon

SECTION 2. (1) Notwithstanding any local law to the contrary, an emergency medical services provider may provide emergency transportation and [treatment] **apply basic lifesaving measures limited to CPR, oxygen support, controlling external bleeding, applying bandages, treating broken bones, needle chest decompression, and if necessary, and the handler allows, administer Narcan to reverse narcotic drug overdose to a police dog or search and rescue dog assisting a law enforcement agency** that is injured in the line of duty, provided that such transportation or [treatment] **basic lifesaving measures** does not delay or otherwise interfere with the emergency transportation or treatment of any human. **The police K9 handler or representative of the police K9s agency must be present with the K9 during transport. The ambulance agency or company shall not be held responsible for any veterinary bills stemming from their good faith efforts to stabilize the dog.**