

Submitter: Gina Hall  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3214

I am a working single mother who has had the privilege of working with and riding amazing horses for the sport of barrel racing since I was six years old. I was first introduced to the sport through my grandparents, who competed in the Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo in their younger years, and were a part of a riding club who traveled throughout Oregon going on rides and entering contests. My uncle competed in horse racing at the fair during the summer. They also had a dairy farm and milk route throughout Lincoln County and raised beef cattle as well. My parents then took over the reins and transported my sister and I, as well as our horses and animals, to many rodeos, jackpots and gaming events throughout the northwest and even nationally. These animals have always been not just in my life but make up a large part of my identity. Countless dollars have gone towards the upkeep of my horses for housing, feed, tack, veterinary costs, entry fees, and not to mention a truck and trailer to transport them to various events or veterinary appointments. Needless to say, they are very important, have always been important, and always will be. The utmost care and respect is given as we travel to various events.

The sport of rodeo and barrel racing is at risk in Oregon if this House Bill 3214 were to pass. The bill is very broad and leaves it open for interpretation on what would be allowed or not allowed. This bill would not add any additional protection to these animals that is not already being given. Additionally, rodeo is not only a sport, but it's a way of life. In our current modern world, we are moving further and further away from the old west and old west principles for which this country was founded. So it is because of this, that rodeo is actually growing exponentially, as people are wanting to catch a piece of our heritage and the foundation that helped to make this country great. If you travel to any rodeo in Oregon, you will see people from all walks of life. Rodeo is a part of the soul of this nation. It is something to be revered and celebrated, so for this reason, I oppose House Bill 3214. Thank you.