



February 7, 2024

House Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Kropf and Vice Chair Anderson and Wallan and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States, we are writing in strong support of HB 4145, legislation to create state level crimes for engaging, encouraging, and participating in animal crush videos.

In 2010, Congress enacted the Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act, which criminalizes the distribution of obscene videos depicting animals subjected to grotesque forms of cruelty such as crushing, burning, drowning, suffocation, impalement, and more. This legislation was prompted in part by the disturbing proliferation of sexual fetish videos featuring scantily clad individuals inflicting extreme cruelty on small animals, including crushing the skulls of puppies, kittens, hamsters and other animals using stilettos and other brutal methods. Additionally, animal sexual assault was disturbingly prevalent in this commercialized form of animal torture. The bill was strongly supported by law enforcement and animal protection organizations nationwide.

Although the federal law has been utilized to prosecute some significant cases, its jurisdiction is limited to instances affecting interstate commerce. Consequently, while individuals who commit acts of cruelty can be prosecuted under Oregon law, there exists a gap in addressing those who pay others to commit heinous acts of cruelty or those involved in the production of such videos.

Recently, a [Prineville man was charged with conspiring to engage in animal crushing and creating and distributing crush videos](#) through an encrypted online group chat application of the torture, mutilation and killing of adult and juvenile monkeys.

**HB 4145 serves as an additional tool for law enforcement to tackle these cases that might otherwise evade prosecution.**

It's well-documented that there exists a correlation between animal cruelty and violence towards humans. Numerous studies have shown that instances of animal cruelty often serve as a precursor to violent behavior directed at people. Consequently, the FBI has incorporated animal cruelty offenses into its Uniform Crime Reporting program, recognizing the vital importance of addressing violent animal cruelty to safeguard our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of such an important issue.

Sincerely,

Kelly Peterson  
Oregon Senior State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States