

## <u>Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on House Bill 4043</u> House Committee on Judiciary

February 7, 2024

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Wallen, and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports House Bill 4043.

HB 4043 would make it a crime to interfere with an investigation into animal abuse and neglect. It also would clarify and simplify laws regarding animal abuse and neglect and increase the consequences for the most serious forms of animal neglect (neglect that is intentional, knowing, or reckless).

Humane Voters Oregon supports these changes because it believes animal abuse and neglect are serious crimes that should be taken more seriously, including by making the laws easier to enforce, increasing penalties for the most serious forms of neglect, and making it a crime to interfere with an investigation into animal abuse or neglect.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz Director