



# HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on House Bill 4145  
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 4145.

HB 4145 would create state-level crimes for making visual displays and recordings of “animal crushing” and for possessing and assisting in duplication and/or distribution of such recordings. “Animal crushing” is “conduct in which an animal is intentionally or knowingly crushed, burned, drowned, suffocated, impaled or otherwise subjected to serious physical injury.” HB 4145, Section 2(3). We refer to other written testimony in the record, including that of The Humane Society of the United States, for a further description of this activity and the deranged reasons for which it occurs.

No one can reasonably dispute that crushing animals and making visual recordings of it for sexual and other gratifications is wrong and should be illegal. It is illegal under federal law, but subject to limits on Congressional power. HB 4145 would sensibly make it a state crime, too, in part to fill the gaps that the federal law does not reach.

We understand there are concerns about how HB 4145 would comport with free-speech protections in the U.S. and Oregon constitutions. We hope those concerns can be addressed with appropriate amendments while still allowing the bill to achieve its objectives.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz  
Director