



# HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on House Bill 4043  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

February 21, 2024

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, 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 a crime against an animal. It would also clarify and simplify the laws regarding animal abuse and would classify animal neglect committed intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly as a Class C felony instead of as a misdemeanor. In addition, HB 4043 would close a loophole in the laws intended to separate people convicted of animal crimes from other potential animal victims by making clear that the people cannot "reside" with such animals even if they claim to not "posses" them.

Humane Voters Oregon supports these changes because animal abuse and neglect are serious crimes that should be taken more seriously, including by making the laws easier to enforce, by increasing penalties for the most serious forms of animal neglect, by facilitating investigations into animal abuse and neglect, and by better protecting animals from people with a recent history of abusing or neglecting animals.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz  
Director