

In opposition of SB 1076-

I am a lifetime Oregon resident with an extensive background in professional canine training, rescue and sporting competition. I oppose SB 1076 strongly from both a personal and professional angle.

I am not a stranger to the need for more intensive rescue facility oversight. I fostered and assisted in rescue operations for the better part of six years and saw many examples of rescues becoming overwhelmed to the point of neglect, misrepresenting their adoptable animals, and moving adoptions to boast better numbers.

However, I have also worked with rescue entities that pinch every penny to ensure the money goes back into the welfare of the dogs while holding themselves fiscally accountable to the public through good fiscal stewardship and animal care. The rescues that follow the law will be the only ones penalized with the movement of this bill forward, and the unintentional consequences to every other aspect of dog breeding, exhibition and training in the state of Oregon will be disastrous.

In addition to harming law-abiding rescue agencies, this bill will be unintentionally harming low volume breeders who produce a litter for either the betterment of a breed, to fill a working role within their life, or to compete in canine sports. With a well-bred and health-tested dog currently starting at \$3,000 for purchase in Oregon, reducing breeders whose focus is one of the aforementioned areas will only harm Oregonians seeking to adopt or shop for their lifetime companions. This will encourage backyard breeding for profit, but the 'source' will come from out-of-state puppy mills. The demand for dogs won't go away, but it will be filled in different ways.

For example, my first well-bred dog came from a pair of golden retrievers owned by a loving family who had decided to have exactly one litter. If they had to become 'breeders' to ensure they could raise a litter without being at risk of a Class B misdemeanor, I doubt they would have produced Raya. She lived until 13 years of age, passed Search and Rescue certification, and was a beloved family companion until her last day.

After spending years of my life in rescue, I began competing in sled dog sports – training on Mt. Hood and racing through the entirety of the Pacific Northwest. Sled dog teams are usually bred by their individual musher, a family of dogs staying together through retirement. These are working dogs but also pets, who were born into Oregon backyards and compete in some of the biggest races in the lower 48 states. By passing this legislation, you would be killing our local ability to produce talented dogs at-home, which would force me to import my team members from kennels that don't health test, don't keep their dogs inside as pets, and increase the number of resident dogs that weren't raised to be members of my Oregon community from puppyhood. Dog Sledding as a sport has existed for over 60 years in Oregon, and we are already struggling enough with global warming. Please don't put this nail in the coffin.

Finally, I have been assisting on two recent neglect cases where private individuals stepped up to assist in vetting, evaluating and placing abandoned dogs. With this additional regulatory complexity, I would not have participated in helping place these dogs as a re-homing fee to cover costs would count as a 'sale' and potentially put my personal pets at risk of seizure for violating this law.

For those of us whose life revolves around dogs – be they working partners, a charitable donation of our time to rescue, or beloved pets that we choose to share with others – this bill is extremely invasive and expensive to both enforce and implement.

If passed, it will have an immediate detrimental impact on dog fanciers and pet owners alike. Please oppose SB 1076.

Thank you for your time,

Charlotte Clawson