

Submitter: Jennifer Merrill
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1076

I strongly oppose

Oregon already has the strictest animal welfare laws in the country, couple that with Oregon's lack of funding shown through subsidizing the general fund to cover expenses only speaks to the negative impacts this would have on an already strained system. The costs to implement this less than clear program would impact more than just breeders. This would impact future families through adoption costs. This will impact facilities across the state as their expenses implementing such will be felt through loss of funding, the need redistribute funds in order to accommodate such. Employees of county programs could very well have their hours cut or worse positions eliminated.

When programs and shelters are at max capacity and employee coverage for such is being limited due to lack of funds why would the state allow (as they have) funds to accommodate over 4400 animals being brought in from out of state? How can further straining the financial obligation to this ill worded proposal even be entertained?

To further explain my opposition to this bill I'd like to note that "pet" is not defined in this bill. As such any livestock being sold as a pet be it canine, equine, swine, or other.....could be included. As such what would this mean for our farmers, our children?

Funding sources, as well as fiscal impact to existing programs and their funding is not addressed. My children actively participate in 4H, FFA, AKC, UKC, ASCA, IABCA, and other programs that this bill would compromise. Without clear and defined verbiage this bill could easily impose expenses that eliminate programs that support Oregon's dogs for the blind, and service animals, as well as youth counseling programs that utilize animal therapy. Such could eliminate current programs that have been successfully (in my case instrumental) in healing, helping, and changing the lives of children!

I believe that there are viable options that would better serve our state. Ones that can support existing programs, breeders, exhibitors, juniors, and animal advocates across our state with clarity and far less negative and questionable financial impact.

Without further clarification on verbiage and monetary impacts this bill is not something I can back.

The negativity impacts to long standing programs, clubs, reputable breeders, resource centers, foster and adoption programs, volunteers and employees, youth programs, the disabled community, farmers, and more.... are extensive. These impacted support programs currently serve a massive and diverse population. They all have a standing and well known positive impact on thousands of Oregon residents (for me specifically the youth and disabled services in oregon). These parties support, participate, and depend on programs supported by those I listed above. This Bill in its current verbage will negativly impact all of them. This Bill is without clarity, this bill does not have clear and specific usage of words as well as a clear fiscal impact nor does it address a way to sustain and enforce its goal.

This bill is not something I can support.