

OREGON DOG RESCUE

February 16, 2026

Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Kimberly Harney, and I am the Assistant Director of Oregon Dog Rescue, a nonprofit in Portland.

We formed in 2007 and have placed more than 20,000 dogs into homes. We are a team of 29 staff members and more than 500 volunteers working 365 days a year.

We have seen firsthand how the current ARE oversight has been detrimental to our team & dozens of other rescues in Oregon.

I want to be clear: we support oversight. We welcome inspections. We invite anyone to visit our facility, see our dogs, review our veterinary care and emergency protocols.

In our experience however, inspections have primarily focused on highly detailed, time-consuming record-keeping requirements. The statute requires very specific documentation, including foster provider contact information in each individual file and precise medication dosage entries. When minor clerical details such as a missing date, phone number, or dosage format occur, those issues can accumulate into **significant** penalties.

With the volume of dogs we handle, even small technical errors can divert donations and donated resources away from veterinary care and lifesaving work.

One example: in 2024 we were fined & forced to re-complete our inspection (using dozens of staff hours) because I misunderstood & sent in a photo of an 8 week old puppy (at the date of inspection) when the requirements are a photo of the puppy be taken the day of intake-which in this case the puppy was born in my home.

They not only used our staff hours but also ARE staff hours to re-complete our inspection solely due to a photo. Same puppy. Same foster home-just not the right age. This type of requirement does not in any way prove a rescue to be taking the best care of the animals.

We also received a fine because the phone number of another local rescue whom we took a dog from was not in the dog's record. The name and date of transfer, dogs veterinary record, photo etc were all present but not a phone number. A phone number. Does that make any sense? An adopter does not need this-the animals do not need this!

HB 4034 does not remove oversight or weaken animal welfare protections. It simply removes overly prescriptive operational details from statute and allows those requirements to be addressed through rulemaking, where they can be implemented more proportionally and practically.

This bill helps ensure that limited nonprofit and agency resources remain focused on the care and safety of animals. At the end of the day, the animals need us & they need us focused on care-not clerical errors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kimberly Harney
Assistant Director
Oregon Dog Rescue
www.oregondogrescue.org