



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Testimony By: Scott Beckstead
Presented To: Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
In Support Of: SB326, Pet Adoption Tax Credit
Date: February 8, 2017

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen, and members of the committee:

My name is Scott Beckstead, Senior Oregon Director and Rural Outreach Director for The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). I appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 326 on behalf of our Oregon members and supporters.

Encouraging animal adoptions through tax credits is an innovative approach that we can all support. Getting more pets adopted into loving homes directly benefits Oregon's taxpayers, who shoulder the costs of providing care, shelter and food for homeless animals in Oregon's municipal and other publicly-owned animal shelters. Every day that an adoptable animal lingers in a public shelter means additional expenditures. Incentives like the tax credit in SB326 will encourage pet adoptions, help to move homeless animals more quickly through the shelter system, and ultimately decrease expenses associated with daily animal care.

This bill provides a tax credit for those caring individuals and families who choose to adopt an animal from a shelter, animal control facility, or rescue in the state. Every year, animal shelters across the country provide care for 6-8 million dogs and cats, and, sadly 2.4 million healthy, adoptable pets are euthanized because they have not found a new home. While Oregon is already a national leader in finding homes for the overwhelming majority of shelter animals, our shelters still struggle to find new homes for each and every pet. This tax credit will serve as another critical tool to help ensure no healthy, adoptable pet is ever euthanized in an Oregon shelter.

In conclusion, SB 326 is a thoughtful and innovative way to promote adoption of homeless animals, and also to send a clear, tangible message to our nation that Oregon cares about pets and the people

who love them. We urge you to vote YES on SB 326. Let's make Oregon the first state in the nation to use tax credits to publicly encourage the adoption of homeless animals in our state.

Thank you for considering our position on this legislation.