

## Testimony on SB 326

Dear Senator Dembrow and other members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. I am a foster mother for Multnomah County Animal Services. Typically, my foster animals are kittens, sometime adult cats.

I encourage you to vote against this bill. I am totally in support of more public money for shelters but not at the risk of encouraging people to adopt on the basis on a small immediate savings. I would be concerned that people would see adopting as less of a financial burden and be excited about the savings, while at the same time forgetting that long term costs of owning a pet are far, far more of an issue. We need to be reminding people of the complete cost of a pet, not seducing them into a short-term outlook by how much they can save by adopting in the moment.

As a foster mom, I tell my adopters that the fee they pay for a kitten [\$100] is a huge savings in and of itself, since the cash value of all the services that kitten has received far exceeds the adoption fee. THIS is the message we need to send - that shelters are doing an amazing job and need more support because of what they do and the value they supply to adopters. I have had foster animals that the shelter has done surgery on worth hundreds of dollars. The adopters need to learn that they are getting not only a pet but a pet that has been well-cared for and one that is a good "value" - in most cases far more than the so-called 'free' kitten a neighbor is giving away which must immediately be taken to a vet for treatments and vaccinations which will cost far more than \$100.

I am disturbed that we are looking at this "feel good" bill in spite of budget problems. Although I believe that tax expenditures should be allowed for many things – especially for assisting low-income individuals - creating them without full consideration of the implications is not in the best interests of Oregonians.

Please consider the perspective of someone who cares for shelter animals and talks with adopters and nix this bill.

Thanks.

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