

Dear Representative,

I'm an Oregon voter and value my local pet store deeply. We enjoy visiting the puppies and supporting our local business who cares deeply for their puppies. We want to shop local and purchase our pet supplies from the pet store that gives our town an attraction for families, and also provides jobs and a livelihood for families in our community. I believe this bill would crush them financially, forcing out a loved small business in favor of large, national pet supply chains that they already have a hard time competing with. Puppy mills are a problem, but this law targets the wrong offenders and punishes legitimate businesses.

The puppies at our local pet store are not treated as a commodity - they receive constant love and attention from staff and customers alike. I have seen puppy breeds that took longer than normal to sell being treated with respect. I have seen puppies that had sold and were returned taken back and accepted by the store, rather than being rejected and sent to a shelter. I have seen the pet store take older puppies from breeders that were left over when they were not able to sell to private buyers. The pet store provides a safe place for these puppies to go when small breeders have run out of options.

I purchased my puppy from my local pet store and have never regretted that decision. I considered going to a shelter but didn't feel it was the right decision for me. I wanted to raise a dog with my family as a puppy and my local store was a great place to visit the puppies regularly and make the right choice for us. Short of going to a national dog show, we could not have been exposed to the many different breeds that we were interested in without our pet store's presence. They carry breeds that are never available in shelters, and we preferred having the background information from the breeder that was provided to us.

Families that are hesitant to adopt a dog from a shelter due to safety concerns for their children, or because they need a specific sporting or working breed of dog, deserve to have a place they can purchase a dog that doesn't require spending hundreds or thousands of dollars in research and transportation costs traversing the country visiting different breeders to meet different dogs. Any dog owner knows that the major expenses of dog ownership occur after purchase. Don't price out common, working people who would give a deserving dog a loving home. Don't destroy a loved and local business and the livelihoods of many people in our community. I urge you to resist enacting a law that will not treat the source of a real problem, but will hurt your constituents and anger voters.

Sincerely,

Nicole Creason
Newberg area resident