

My name is Grace Zaikoski. I am a constituent, and I am here to express my concern about HB 2804-5.

HB 2804-5 is not about the merits of shelters or the ability to buy a dog from your local pound. This bill is about restricting the freedom of Oregon's small businesses while threatening public health/safety with the unregulated import of shelter animals.

This bill restricts the freedom of our 8 remaining small-business owners to choose where they source their animals. Oregon has already eliminated unregulated "puppy mills" (defined as a facility with 50 or more intact breeding-age dogs for the purpose of reproduction and profit), so there is currently no threat to animal welfare.

Under federal law, our pet stores must buy from breeders who are regulated by the USDA. The animals are bred and raised locally in regulated, humane conditions. Stores must have their pets checked by a veterinarian before sale and disclose the source of the dogs, offering reasonable replacement or compensation if the dog has a pre-existing condition. These are all safeguards in place to uphold the safety and predictability for the animal, breeder, store, and buyer.

HB 2804-5 would mandate that Oregon pet stores swap their locally-bred and USDA regulated pets for a supply of pets whose source is largely **unregulated**.

Shelter dogs are not required to be tracked or vetted prior to shipment or sale. These animals are often transported between state and international lines. Because shelter animal transport is not regulated, we cannot guarantee that animals are transported safely or even humanely. We have no record of their vaccinations, health conditions, or temperaments, yet this bill would **mandate** that our stores sell these questionable products to the public. I am concerned at the lack of sourcing transparency and the threat to public health.

In 2017, Oregon Humane Society imported 3,944 dogs—this is more than all 8 of Oregon's pet store sales combined in a year. This bill would encourage further importation. HB 2804-5 would create a retail rescue monopoly for large-scale shelter operations and put hardworking Oregonians out of business.

HB 2804-5 removes the right for families to choose to purchase a pet with a known health history and warranty from a breeder via pet store.

Oregonians can already choose to purchase a shelter dog by going to a shelter. This bill does **not** restrict the ability to buy a rescue dog from a shelter if you or your family chooses.

Instead, this bill mandates that **ALL** purchases are sourced from rescues. To create a blanket mandate harms Oregon's small businesses and families alike.

Please oppose HB 2804-5 to uphold the integrity of Oregon's marketplace and the safety of its public. Thank you.

Definitions:

Puppy mill: A dog breeding facility with over 50 intact dogs aged 2 years or older, for the primary purpose of reproduction and profit. (per House Bill 2470, 2009)

Retail rescue: Unregulated organizations that move a vast number of dogs and turn a profit. These are usually listed as IRS tax-exempt “non-profits,” but follow business models to turn and increase a profit.

Pipeline: used in reference to the source of pets that some shelters utilize to have animals available for adoption. The arrangements of and transport which facilitates this constant supply of dogs is referred to as a “pipeline.”

Trafficking: the movement of pets across jurisdictions (county, state, or international) for profitable ventures