

**Testimony Concerning HB 5344
Judiciary Committee, February 24, 2016
Courtney McMahon**

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5344, Desmond's Law.

Far too often animals are neglected, abused or killed by the hands of humans. They have no voices to let others know of their pain and suffering. If a person were to suffer through the same experiences the abuser would be punished harshly. And that is what needs to happen to animal abusers. We need to show them it is NOT right to touch an animal in any way but with love. It is NOT right to take the life of an animal. Their lives should not be any less valuable than ours. We need to stand together for these animals and fight for them.

Studies show that people who abuse or kill others start out by abusing or killing animals. We should have stricter laws against these types of people so not only will we save animals, we can save people as well.

I beg of you to help pass Desmond's Law and have justice for all animals that have suffered at the hands of their abusers. They deserve rights to be taken care of and never live in fear. They deserve to have their abuser punished and not just a slap on the wrist so they can commit the same crime again and again.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Courtney McMahon
Portland