

DAVID GOMBERG
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 10



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 24, 2023

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

As Oregon continues to grapple with the ongoing challenges of homelessness and domestic violence, it is crucial that we consider the needs of all members of affected families, including beloved companion animals.

I am writing in support of SB 496, a proposal that will ultimately provide much-needed shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for pets owned by people experiencing homelessness or escaping domestic violence.

As is the case with any pet-owner, those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence have a deep emotional attachment to their pets. Pets can provide security, comfort, and emotional support for those going through difficult times in especially precarious conditions. To shoulder pet-owners with a choice between the safety of a night's rest at a shelter or their pet is unconscionable.

We can certainly do better.

Affording for the provision of pet care within homeless shelters and domestic violence centers is a matter of compassion for the most vulnerable among us – humans and animals alike.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment. I urge your support of SB 496.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Gomberg".

Representative David Gomberg
Oregon House District 10