



H.R. 4308 The Captive Primate Safety Act

Congressman Earl Blumenauer ■ Third District of Oregon ■ www.blumenauer.house.gov

What would the legislation do?

The Captive Primate Safety Act would add nonhuman primates to the list of animals that cannot be purchased or transported across state lines by individuals for use as pets. This legislation, which passed the House of Representatives in 2009, protects public health and safety by prohibiting interstate commerce in primates for pets. The Captive Primate Act complements existing state laws.

It does not limit the transfer of primates for research purposes, or by licensed zoos, museums, and rescue shelters. It includes an exemption to allow private animals to be transported across state lines in order to receive veterinary care. This legislation will protect public health, and make our communities safer by reducing primate attacks on humans.

Why is this legislation necessary?

The last three years have provided harrowing examples of the dangers that pet primates pose to society. Last year, an incident in Zanesville, Ohio left dozens of exotic animals killed and threatened the citizens of Zanesville, made clear the danger of owning wild and exotic animals. This incident came after the tragic attack by a chimpanzee that left a Connecticut woman disfigured and almost dead.

While most incidents go unreported, records show that scores of children are among the more than 200 people injured by captive primates in 40 states since 1990. Law enforcement agencies expend countless hours and resources addressing the escapes, attacks, and cruelty cases that inevitably arise when these wild animals are kept as pets. Along with the risk of attack, primates can carry life-threatening diseases. The importation of nonhuman primates into the U.S. for the pet trade has been prohibited by Federal health regulations since 1975. Still, these animals are bred in the U.S. and are readily available for purchase from exotic animal dealers and over the Internet.

Who supports this legislation?

This legislation is supported by the Humane Society of the United States, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, BornFree USA, and the Jane Goodall Institute.

For more information on Congressman Blumenauer's animal welfare agenda, contact Tyler Frisbee at (202) 225-4811 or visit his website at <http://blumenauer.house.gov/>.