



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

House Civil Justice Committee  
Interested Party Testimony – Sub House Bill 147  
June 25, 2018

Chairman Butler, Vice Chair Hughes, Ranking Member Boggs and members of the committee, my name is Corey Roscoe and I am the Ohio State Director for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) the nation's largest and most effective animal protection organization. On behalf of the HSUS and our Ohio members and supporters, thank you for the opportunity to provide written interested party testimony for Sub HB 147 to change humane society law.

Humane societies provide a unique and valuable voluntary service to our state—without the existence of these organizations, the costs for humane law enforcement and related care and services would have to be assumed by counties most of which do not have the expertise or resources to appropriately perform.

We understand and appreciate that the goal of Sub HB 147 is out of a desire for accountability and transparency. However, the concern remains that the proposed regulations can create overdue burdens and unintentionally make it harder for humane societies to perform their volunteer law enforcement duties.

One prominent concern of the bill is to require non-prosecution requirements entered in by humane society-appointed prosecutors be approved by a judge but not required for all prosecutors and cases prosecuted under 959. The law should be consistent for **all** prosecutors if the goal of judicial review is to serve as a check and balance.

We are fortunate that in a majority of our large and mid-sized cities in Ohio we have first-class humane societies that enhance the lives of their community through a variety of programs and services such as humane law enforcement. But in several smaller and more rural counties there may not be a humane society or they have chosen to not employ humane agents due to limited capacity. We must be cautious to not take for granted the voluntary work of our humane societies who provide us all with valuable services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Corey Roscoe  
Ohio state director  
The Humane Society of the United States

Anita W. Coupe, Esq.  
*Chair of the Board*

Jennifer Leaning, M.D., S.M.H.  
*Vice Chair of the Board*

Eric L. Bernthal, Esq.  
*Second Vice Chair of the Board*

Walter J. Stewart, Esq.  
*Board Treasurer*

Wayne Pacelle  
*President & CEO*

Michael Markarian  
*Executive Vice President & COO*

G. Thomas Waite III  
*Treasurer & CFO*

Andrew N. Rowan, Ph.D.  
*Chief International Officer  
& Chief Scientific Officer*

Roger A. Kindler, Esq.  
*General Counsel & CLO*

Janet D. Frake  
*Secretary*

Holly Hazard, Esq.  
*Chief Innovations Officer*

Laura Maloney  
*Chief of Staff*

**DIRECTORS**

Jeffrey J. Arciniaco  
Eric L. Bernthal, Esq.  
Barbara S. Brack  
Jerry Cesak  
Anita W. Coupe, Esq.  
Neil B. Fang, Esq., C.P.A.  
Jane Greenspun Gale  
Jonathan D. Kaufelt, Esq.  
Paula A. Kislak, D.V.M.  
Jennifer Leaning, M.D., S.M.H.  
Kathleen M. Linehan, Esq.  
John Mackey  
William F. Mancuso  
Mary I. Max  
Patrick L. McDonnell  
Judy Ney  
Sharon Lee Patrick  
Judy J. Peil  
Marian G. Probst  
Jonathan M. Ratner  
Joshua S. Reichert, Ph.D.  
Walter J. Stewart, Esq.  
Andrew Weinstein  
Jason Weiss  
Persia White  
David O. Wiebers, M.D.  
Lona Williams