

HB 433 Proponent Testimony

Dear Chairman Young, and Honorable Members of the House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee,

My name is Jason Dean Cooke and I stand before you today to present proponent testimony on HB 433. I have given testimony on numerous bills that involve the welfare of our companion animals, particularly those that deal with dogs or cats. Very few bills have the power to save lives like HB 433 does - most bills that I testify on are with regard to passing laws to deter animal cruelty and ask for stiffer punishments for those who commit heinous acts against our animals - as it will actually help end the suffering of dogs and cats by preventing them from being born in the first place. I will now begin my proponent testimony to HB 433.

Background

For seven years now, I have worked in animal rescue, animal education, and animal advocacy. I am the former president of the humane society serving Mahoning County and currently serve on the Board of Directors for Falcon Animal Rescue in Austintown, Ohio. I am also a member of multiple grassroots organizations that strive to change animal laws in Ohio with regard to cruelty, neglect, tethering, and discrimination.

Option of receiving up to 2 CEU for 4 Free Hours and the Importance of Spay / Neuter

It is an undeniable fact that a dog or cat that is never brought into this world can never be starved, beaten, neglected, abandoned, or languish in a shelter, which is why part of my advocacy focuses on spaying and neutering. It is also an undeniable fact there is a cost associated with every animal that is fixed. And it is this cost that is one of the main reasons, along with lack of education on the benefits of spaying and neutering, that our shelters, communities, and streets are bursting at the seams with dogs and cats; animals existing in a world where there simply is no room for them. I am not sure how many dogs will be spared from being forced to exist at the end of a chain or how many feral cats will not freeze to death by four free hours of spay / neuter surgeries, and to be honest, that number is irrelevant. A life is a life, and if we can save just one dog

or cat from suffering, then it is worth doing. And by helping prevent unwanted dogs and cats from entering this world, we also increase the chances of those already here of leading a better life.

Conclusion

I wish to thank Chairman Young and Honorable Members of the House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee for affording myself the opportunity to speak in favor of HB 433, and will gladly answer to the best of my ability any questions the members of the committee may have.

Thank you,

Jason Dean Cooke, Animal Advocate State Of Ohio