



Commerce and Labor Committee  
Proponent Testimony Kellie DiFrischia  
May 1, 2019

Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chairman Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and distinguished members of the Committee,

Columbus Dog Connection fully supports HB 67. As a twenty one year old dog/cat agency in the Columbus area, we know first hand how badly spay/neuter services are needed.

In fact, the need has been so immense, we made the enormous decision to open our own low cost spay/neuter services located beside the Columbus Airport. Our non-profit also provides services to in rural areas of the state. We have found the need for services to continue to be immense with few options for low income.

When options are not available, the Ohio dog and cat overpopulation climbs. This is a burden to all taxpayers.

We pay the going rate for our veterinary team to carry out the services of the day. We have placed our service prices as low as possible while also providing the ability to pay for the services themselves and continue to have stellar performance from staff and outcomes for the animal clients. While we take every opportunity to apply for grant funding, the competition nationwide is strenuous.

One of our biggest expenses for every surgery day is the salary fee of the veterinarian. With the guarantee of continuing education credit, this incentive would help the veterinarian and give us the opportunity to reach out for the lowest income families for an even steeper discount to spay/neuter their pet.

This might even be most valuable with the cat problem all of Ohio faces. Many Ohio residents in low-income areas want to help homeless cats, but do not have the means. If we were able to offer lower prices, as we have see when we have grant funding, many good citizens in Ohio's lowest income neighborhoods would be a great option to help lessen the tax burden that overpopulation presents to all Ohioans'.

HB 67 is a win-win-win-win. The vets receive credits, the vet clinics become invested in their neighborhoods, animals suffer less and tax money is saved. Thank you for your consideration.

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