



Ohio Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) Written Testimony on SB 164  
The Ohio Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee  
Interested Party  
October 9, 2019

Chairman Schuring, Vice-Chair Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the General Government and Agency Review Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written interested party testimony regarding SB 164. We apologize that we could not offer our comments in person.

On behalf of the over 3,000 members of the OVMA, we would like to applaud Senator Tim Schaffer for introducing SB 164. OVMA welcomes and encourages any opportunity to raise awareness for canine cancer. Additionally, we commend the work being done by all organizations working to put an end to canine and human cancer including the the Hank Kabel Sarcoma Foundation.

By raising awareness, not only will we be making a positive impact on the canine populations but also with combating human cancer. As Dr. Rustin Moore stated in his testimony on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 – canines with cancer are becoming increasingly recognized as a resource for studying the potential of new anti-cancer drugs and therapies. Similar to their owners/caregivers, cancer in a dog occurs naturally. Douglas Thamm, VMD, a professor of oncology and director of clinical research at the Flint Animal Cancer Center at Colorado State University in Fort Collins said “they drink the same water we do, sometimes eat the same food, and walk around on the same grass that’s been exposed to the same chemicals.”<sup>1</sup> Dr. Thamm also noted that “cancer in dogs can develop resistance to therapy, as in human cancer treatment, and can metastasize in similar ways. And dogs have a fully intact immune system, making it easier and more effective to study new immunotherapeutic agents.”<sup>2</sup> There is excellent work being done all over the United States and right here in Ohio on curing canine cancer and the link to curing and treating cancer in humans. For example, The Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine has partnered with Nationwide Children’s Hospital, the National Cancer Institute, and others on this critical research.

SB 164 will both help raise awareness and shed light on the great work currently ongoing in research. We applaud Senator Schaffer for being a leader on this issue and applaud all organizations engaged in research to eradicate cancer in both human and animals. Again, we thank you for your time and attention. Should we be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully submitted

David Frash  
Government Relations Director  
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association  
[rdf@ohiovma.org](mailto:rdf@ohiovma.org)  
614-436-1300

Submitted via email to [sd29@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:sd29@ohiosenate.gov) on 10/8/2019.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.americanveterinarian.com/journals/amvet/2018/january2018/enlisting-dogs-in-the-war-on-cancer>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.americanveterinarian.com/journals/amvet/2018/january2018/enlisting-dogs-in-the-war-on-cancer>

