



**Proponent Written Testimony  
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senate Bill 195  
October 24, 2018**

Chairman Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on behalf of the City of Dayton, I am writing to express our support of Senate Bill 195.

Dogs that are not properly confined or restrained have become an increasingly challenging safety issue in many of Dayton's neighborhoods. Some animals are stray, while others have been found to be poorly treated, or even abused. The 2014 death of Klonda Richey brought this critical safety issue to the forefront of our community. Other instances spanning the last few years, including another local, fatal dog attack this past spring, highlight the urgent need for revisions to current dog laws.

In reviewing City policies and procedures to identify how we can best address these situations and prevent issues in the future, it became clear that at the local level, we are restricted in how we can address dog issues when they occur.

We are supportive of the revisions put forth in Senate Bill 195 and believe they allow for greater flexibility in addressing these problem animals. Specifically, the removal of "without provocation" from the current definition of "vicious dog," "dangerous dog," and "nuisance dog". Today, the City Prosecutor has a fatality case that the County court was unable to pursue because they could not prove that the incident had occurred without provocation. This case is now being reviewed in our municipal court as a First-Degree Misdemeanor for Failure to Control.

We are also in favor of other revisions introduced with Senate Bill 195 including, but not limited to:

- More stringent criminal penalties for violations.
- That establishing reasonable cause for designations of a dog in one of the categories may be supported by notarized affidavits of a witness.
- Removing the phrase "killed another dog" and adding substitute language when defining a "dangerous dog."

The changes put forth in Senate Bill 195 will help our community and others across Ohio better address the issue of problematic dogs and help make our neighborhoods safer. On behalf of the Dayton community, thank you for considering this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Shelley Dickstein  
City Manager