

My name is Reagan and I am 13 years old. When I was 7, we got six chickens as pets and to raise our own eggs.



This is my favorite Chicken, Helena.

I loved taking care of her, collecting her eggs, and playing with her.



As a homeschooler, we used our chickens to learn about life cycles, food production, and proper animal care. We used the bird droppings to make compost to grow our food.



Once, when Helena was sick, I made a bed on the kitchen floor and slept next to her all night to make sure she was ok.



This is the beautiful coop that we built for our hens.



We loved and cared for them and they loved and provided for us.

That is...until we moved to West Chester.



Then the zoning officer came and told us to “get rid” of our pets. They hadn’t done anything wrong. They just weren’t allowed.

For 2 years my family fought. We went to endless meetings and spoke to everyone we could. But in the end, it didn’t matter. Two men decided that my pets were not welcome in our town.

The sheriff came and gave my parents a summons to court. We had to spend all of our savings on lawyers and court fees. My parents were found guilty of a crime for keeping pet chickens!

The judge said that if we kept them any longer we would have to pay \$500 per day. My parents had no choice but to let them go.

This is not acceptable. A couple of men should not be allowed to tell thousands of families what kind of pet they can have, no matter who they are. My neighbor is allowed to have dogs and I don’t get to have any say in that because their dogs are not hurting me. Just as my chickens do not harm them.

I just want my chickens back. I want my family to live the healthy life that they want to live. I want to not be afraid of a man in a uniform coming to my home and taking the pets that I love.

I want a government that works to protect my rights rather than take them away. I want to not have to be here today, fighting for the right to live peacefully.

I ask respectfully that you support House Bill 175.