



Written Testimony on Senate Bill 232
Senate Agriculture Committee
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Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Hoagland, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 232. This bill will allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to two continuing education credits every two years, for performing free spay and neuter services.

I am the Executive Director for the Licking County Humane Society. We are a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization organized under Ohio Revised Code 1717, and as such, are also authorized to appoint humane agents who enforce Ohio's animal protection laws. Each year, we intake about 1,900 animals into our facility, which contributes to us touching the lives of approximately 5,000 animals through our various programming and services.

Like most humane societies in Ohio, we do not have a veterinarian on staff. We utilize a local veterinary practice to treat our animals, including spay/neuter services. Although they provide us with generous discounts, we are responsible for the cost of these procedures for the animals in our care. Last year, LCHS spent \$79,000 on spay/neuter services alone. As a non-profit, our expenses are met primarily through fundraising and donations.

I am also the President of the Ohio Federated Humane Societies. Speaking from that perspective, there are many humane societies in Ohio who are far less fortunate. Some shelters struggle to provide for the basic needs of the animals in their care. SB 232 could encourage veterinarians to provide this community service at no cost to their local shelters, which would ease some of the financial burden experienced by shelters. The legislation would most certainly strengthen the partnerships between veterinarians and animal welfare organizations in Ohio.

In conclusion, I want to acknowledge the veterinary community for all that they are doing for animals and animal welfare in Ohio. Many vets already donate time, provide discounts and share expertise with us. We are profoundly grateful for their support of our mission and hopeful that the passing of this legislation will deepen these important relationships.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important issue.