

Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee
HB 67, Veterinarian Student Debt Reduction
for Charitable Services
Proponent Testimony by Beth Sheehan
May 20, 2020

Good morning, Chair Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and distinguished members of the Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee.

I am Beth Sheehan, a Hamilton County resident, who stands before you today, representing a broad, grassroots coalition of dog and cat advocates and engaged, Ohio voters,¹ who enthusiastically support the passage of HB 67, the Veterinarian Student Debt Reduction for Charitable Services bill.

I have participated in six hearings on this bill in the last three and a half years. I ask you to tweak only one item in order to ensure future transparency and accountability.

I suggest adding language to verify the 12 hours of charitable services (not simply self-attest by checking a box, as the bill now supports) by the applicant providing a list of such services rendered, including dates and descriptions, and having signed verification from the agencies where the charitable services were performed.

This bill is a home run for Ohio veterinarians, advocates, and low-income families! It has no cost, is voluntary, no burdensome regulations, saves animal lives, saves taxpayer money, especially in rural counties with limited funds, provides vets the unique opportunity to

engage in shelter medicine (which is only briefly covered in veterinary school).

With the passage of HB 67, we recognize the compassionate, altruistic work of our veterinarians; we hasten fiscal efficiency in our county governments; we attain a higher standard of humanity for ourselves.

I am pleased to now answer your questions.

¹ AARF Radio Ohio; Angels for Animals; Animal Pawtectors; Ashtabula County Animal Protective League; The Black Dog Food Pantry; Dogs Unlimited; Fairfield County CARES (Citizens for Animal Rights and Ethical Standards); Falcon Animal Rescue; Family Puppy Boycott-Puppy Mill Awareness of NW Ohio; Harrison County Dog Pound Volunteers; Hartman's Hounds; Friends of Fido MCDP; Heaven Can Wait; Humane Society of Richland County; Joseph's Legacy; Justice for Herbie; Kecia Mathys; Max's Animal Mission; National Animal Shelter Volunteers; Never Muzzled; Nitro's Ohio Army; North Coast Boxer Rescue; Ohio American Eskimo Rescue; Ohio Coalition of Dog Advocates; One of a Kind Pet Rescue; Our Mission Dog Rescue; Paws and the Law; Pawz 2 Adopt, Austintown; Peppermint Pig Animal Rescue; A Perfect Match; Pinealope Animal Rescue; Rescue Village; Rose's Rescue; Ross County Humane Society; Safe Harbor Animal Rescue, Vermillion; Sanctuary for Senior Dogs; Save Ohio Strays; Soul Connections of Central Ohio; Summit County Shelter; TNR of Warren, Inc.; Tuscarawas County Humane Society; Underdog Society of Knox County; Vote 4 Animals Help Chained Dogs, Dayton; West Side Cats, and 911 Dog Rescue Inc. / Amy's Adoptables,

