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Michele Grim
State Representative

43rd House District
Toledo (p) | Ottawa Hills | Sylvania Township (p) | Washington Township (p)

Standing Committees
Transportation (Ranking Member)
Finance
Health
Arts, Athletics, and Tourism

Before the Senate Ways and Means Committee

House Bill 148 – Establish tax refund designation for spaying, neutering pets

Sponsor testimony provided by Representative Michele Grim

January 27th, 2026

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member DeMora and all members of the Senate Ways and Means committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony regarding House Bill 148, which would authorize the Ohio Pet Fund as an option for individuals to contribute a portion, or all, of their Ohio income tax refund. I would also like to thank my joint-sponsor Representative Sharon Ray.

Ohioans already can choose to contribute to a variety of organizations using this "check-off" system once they receive their state income tax refund. Some of these organizations include the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife fund, the Military Injury Relief fund, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Project income tax contribution fund, and the Wishes for Sick Children income tax contribution fund.

As my joint-sponsor Representative Ray shared in her testimony, there is a need in our state for the work that the Ohio Pet Fund does. Currently it is primarily funded through the donations associated with the Pet Friendly Ohio license plate, which some members of the committee may already be familiar with.

Ohio Pet Fund then distributes these donations through grants to qualifying organizations. Qualifying organizations include animal shelters, 501c3 organizations, humane societies, and veterinary nonprofit organizations, all who must serve low-income Ohioans.

The Ohio Pet Fund determines eligibility through a variety of criteria for owners or animals themselves. Funds are prioritized for groups that specialize in TNR (trap, neuter, release) for cats, sterilization of dogs already awaiting adoption in a non-profit, or for low-income owners. Information regarding how organizations qualify is provided on the Ohio Pet Fund website and attached to my testimony.

Several of my own local rescues and organizations have received critical funding from the Ohio Pet Fund, such as Lucas County Canine Care & Control, Lucas County Pit Crew, Toledo Area Humane Society, and Toledo's Pet Bull Project.

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Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member DeMora and all members of the Senate Ways and Means committee, thank you so much again for the opportunity to share testimony. We would be happy to take any questions at this time.