Highland Humane Society

9331 State Route 124 Hillsboro Ohio - PO BOX 471 937-393-2110

February 6, 2026

Dear Chairman Blessing and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 148.

Hello my name is Richelle Fair from the Highland County Humane Society in Hillsboro, OH.

The funding we receive each year from the Ohio Pet Fund is critical in helping more dogs and puppies in our county get spayed and neutered. Our community has a significant need for accessible, affordable spay/neuter services, especially for lower-income families who cannot afford the high costs of private veterinary care.

Many pet owners desperately want to do the right thing by getting their dogs spayed or neutered but simply lack the financial means to cover the full expense. The Ohio Pet Fund allows us to bridge this gap, making these essential surgeries possible for families who are willing to contribute what they can.

Every day, our humane society is asked to take in litters of puppies—an overwhelming burden that stretches our resources and places a strain on the entire community. When we cannot take them, these puppies are often given away to new homes where owners may also struggle to afford spay/neuter, continuing the cycle of overpopulation. This issue has only worsened over the past three years, with more and more unwanted puppies being born with nowhere to go.

The only way to stop this growing crisis is through increased access to spay/neuter services.

The Ohio Pet Fund is a lifeline for our community, helping us provide these crucial surgeries and prevent future generations of unwanted litters. With additional funding, we could help even more dogs and puppies, easing the burden on shelters, rescues, and pet owners alike. We hope that you will hear our pleas and say yes to Ohio Bill 148.

Sincerely,

Richelle Fair, Executive Director

Highland Humane Society