Allen County Ohio

ALLEN COUNTY DOG WARDEN

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February 12, 2026

Dear Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the committee.

Thank you for your service to the people of Ohio.

I'm writing in favor of House Bill 148, allowing Ohioans to donate part of their income tax refund toward spay and neuter if they wish.

Ohio is in crisis and desperately needs more funding for spay and neuter. House Bill 148 is an easy, no cost way to support the boots on the ground that are trying to manage overpopulation.

Our organization has received the Ohio Pet Fund spay-neuter grants for many years, resulting in hundreds of dogs being sterilized prior to adoption. These dogs will never add to the pet overpopulation crisis. People are more likely to adopt spayed or neutered animals and helping our County Residents to get their personal pets spay/neutered has been a huge success.

As County Dog Wardens we are responsible for investigating dog bites. The number of dog bites that we investigate every year is many with the majority of the bites being from unaltered male dogs in the 2 years old range. Again, showing the importance of helping Citizens in our County to get their dogs sterilized benefiting the safety of the entire County!

Please join us in support House Bill 148.

Julia Shellhammer

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