PAWS Humane Society, Inc.
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Dear Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the Ways and Means Committee; thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 148.

My name is Mary Jane Johnson, a member of the Board of Directors, PAWS Humane Society, Inc. in Wilmington.

As the person who answers the phone and responds to emails which I have been doing for years, I can attest that Clinton County, like many other counties, has an increasing population of cats and dogs. Animals are not being sterilized due to lack of funds. Someone takes in a cat or dog that is pregnant; a litter is born; none are sterilized, and a cycle of increased kittens and puppies starts. Or other folks begin to feed a cat or dog that turns up at their door that is not spayed or neutered. This continues a cycle of reproduction. Some of these animals find their way to shelters and rescues or TNR programs, while many others are left outdoors or dumped resulting in suffering for the animal.

PAWS takes in as many cats and dogs as we can, but because of budgetary constraints we cannot do more. We have been fortunate to receive grants from the Ohio Pet Fund in recent years which help with the sterilization of cats and dogs. The grant covers a percentage of the cats that we take in and because the need is great across Ohio, grant funds are limited. We also host the Rascal Unit, a mobile spay/neuter clinic, four times a year. If additional funds were available, organizations such as PAWS would be able take in more animals and get them sterilized or help subsidize all or part of the cost of sterilization for local pets.

Please consider voting for House Bill 148 as it will help animals, residents and our communities. Thank you.