Fort Defiance
HUMANE SOCIETY

7169 St Rt 15, Defiance, OH 43512 419-658-2298

February 7, 2026

RE: House Bill 148

Dear Chairman Blessing and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 148. My name is Lisa Weaner, the Executive Director of Fort Defiance Humane Society in Defiance, Ohio, and I support HB 148.

Fort Defiance Humane Society is a small animal shelter in northwest Ohio. We serve our county with 40,000 people. We have limited resources, but we do offer a low-cost public spay/neuter clinic along with altering several hundred of our own animals annually. Finding veterinarian resources is one challenge. The other is simply affording them.

The Ohio Pet Fund grant is something we have come to rely on annually. This grant has helped us offer this low-cost service to the community for many years.

While we live in a relatively small community, it is one that relies on low-cost services, especially for animals. Because we live in a more rural area, there are limited options for spay/neuter services. The only other low-cost clinics are an hour away from us. They too are extremely busy so getting an appointment is difficult. Our community relies on us for this service.

If we had more financial assistance, we could offer more clinics to our community to help get their animals spayed/neutered sooner and at least help control the animal population from that perspective. For the average person, they don't even know a grant like this exists. Making everyone aware of it by adding it to a simple tax refund form would increase awareness and allow them to contribute to a great cause easily. Being able to receive more funding would allow us to provide more services – it's that simple.

Thank you again for allowing us to advocate for this important bill. We could not continue work without support from grants like the Ohio Pet Fund.

Sincerely,

Lisa Weaner, Executive Director