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

My name is Charlene Milliner, and I am the Humane Officer for Guernsey County. The primary mission of the Humane Society of Guernsey County is to prevent or alleviate the suffering of all animals through education and preventative measures such as spaying/neutering and sheltering. Currently in Guernsey County, the Humane Society only houses and provides services for cats including assisting with spaying/neutering of owner cats as our finances permit. However, we receive numerous calls from dog owners requesting assistance to spay/neuter their dogs which is a need we cannot meet due to our limited funding.

The County Dog Shelter houses stray dogs but no owner surrender dogs because of overpopulation. So should a Guernsey County member no longer be able to keep/care for their dog (for various reasons such as behavior or their own personal circumstances) there is no place available for the community resident to take their dog in order for it to have a better chance at being rehomed. So often this leads to the dog being dumped/abandoned or unwanted litters and less likelihood of someone wanting to give the dog a new home because of its intact status.

In light of the ABSENCE of Animal Spay/Neuter Laws our next best hope is to offer financial help to motivate owners to spay and neuter pets on their own. Therefore, it is the hope of the Humane Society of Guernsey County that HB 148 will pass so that the Ohio Pet Fund organization will be able to expand their bequests to assist in the ever-increasing requests from animal welfare organizations such as ours. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Charlene Milliner, Humane Society of Guernsey County - 501(c)(3)
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