Humane Society of Morrow County
PO Box 298
Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338
419-947-5791

Re: House Bill 148

Dear Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member DeMora and Members of the Committee:

We have been a multi-year recipient of a grant from The Ohio Pet Fund. Being an organization that operates a small rural shelter almost entirely funded by donations, the grant award is a crucial component to our operational budget each year for our community spay/neuter services.

Our mission is to promote animal welfare in Morrow County. Our organization is 100% volunteer-based with no compensated employees or board members. The largest expense within our budget is spay/neuter assistance with approximately $60,000 spent in 2024 providing low-cost and no-cost surgeries to Morrow County. This does not include the copay offset provided by the client.

Morrow County is a deprived rural area with a considerable amount of poverty with many families struggling to feed themselves, much less their animals. As a result, we see large numbers of unwanted litters of dog and cats, which ultimately keeps our local dog shelter at max capacity constantly. Neglect, abandonment and cruelty are just a few side effects of the epidemic of unwanted animals we see every day. Our biggest tool to combat this is to offer low cost spay/neuter services to our residents in an effort to curtail the population. Without these low-cost options, populations would increase and ultimately the suffering of said animals would as well.

Being awarded grant funds from The Ohio Pet Fund enables us to continue our mission of reducing animal suffering in our county. The greater the funding, the greater the impact we can have on those animals.

We encourage our state representatives to pass HB148 enabling the citizens of the state to contribute more to the ever-growing overpopulation of animals in their own communities. It is at epidemic levels currently for shelter and rescues so each of us could use all the support we can get.

The Board of the Humane Society of Morrow County