February 6, 2026

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 148. My name is Lauri Cook, the founder and president of Cat Roundup Rescue, which was started in the fall of 2019 as a project by two women to gather up stray and abandoned cats from the streets of Richmond Dale, Ohio. This "project" became a non-profit organization in the fall of 2020 and expanded to ten volunteers who foster cats and kittens in their homes. We have partnered with several veterinarians and key community leaders in the southern Ohio region covering more than five counties to make this a success. There are many stray, abandoned and unwanted cats in our communities. Our goal is to "round up" and rescue as many as possible with our resources and volunteers, nurture them back to good health, provide a secure space, and ultimately place them into loving homes.

In 2024, we took in over 600 cats and kittens. Since 2020, more than 2,600 have passed through the rescue. While our primary goal is to find adoptive homes for cats and kittens, we also assist families with low-cost spay/neuter to reduce overpopulation. Our passionate and committed volunteer team dedicates numerous hours of time and talent, as well as in-kind resources, in support of this program.The value of their contributions has had a great impact on the overall success of our work. Additional funding opportunities from taxpayers to support our non-profit would be helpful in expanding the reach of our rescue operation.

With sincere appreciation,

Lauri Cook
Cat Roundup Rescue, President

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