



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

May 10, 2021

1255 23rd Street, NW
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Washington, DC 20037

Senate Bill 113 - Interested Party

Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee:

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humanesociety.org

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, my name is Corey Roscoe the Ohio Director for the Humane Society of the United States, a leading national animal protection organization. Our work in Ohio includes providing free training to law enforcement, offering resources including small grants to local animal groups and supporting policies that protect animals. We appreciate the opportunity to testify as an Interested Party to the provision in Senate Bill 113 that would legalize consumer discharge of 1.4g fireworks.

On behalf of our members and supporters in Ohio, we respectfully ask the committee to consider the impact of the legal discharge of consumer fireworks on family pets, their owners, animal control officers and shelters.

Many dog owners are already worried about the negative effects the discharge of fireworks have on their pets and this bill can only add to those concerns. Pet owners can plan for annual firework forward holidays because they are predictable events but if fireworks can be legally discharged any time of year, it may leave pet owners uneasy about when the next loud boom will happen.

Around every Independence Day and New Year's Eve there is a spike in missing dogs directly attributable to fireworks. In 2017, [media](#) reported 100 lost dogs were taken to the Franklin County dog shelter in Columbus over the Fourth of July weekend. While it is the responsibility of dog owners to ensure their pets are confined within their property, when an animal feels threatened, they can become extremely motivated to escape and will often take any extraordinary opportunities to do so such as digging under and climbing over fences or breaking through gates, screens and doors.

When successful, the dog becomes at risk of getting lost, injured, and can run into roadways in confusion. If they are picked up by animal control, they become an additional financial burden to animal shelters and government employees. Even when pets don't escape the home, fear induced by fireworks can cause animals to become aggressive, harm themselves, eliminate inappropriately, vomit, or go into hiding.

For these reasons, we ask you to consider this vulnerable population when voting on this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.