

**Ohio House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor
Committee**

**HB 433, Veterinarians Continuing Ed for Neutering Services
Proponent Testimony by Beth Sheehan**

February 27, 2018

Good afternoon, Chair Young, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Minority Member Lepore-Hagan, and distinguished members of the Ohio House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee.

I am Beth Sheehan, a Hamilton County resident, who stands before you today, representing a broad, grassroots coalition of dog and cat advocates and engaged, Ohio voters – AARF Radio Ohio; Angels for Animals; Animal Pawtectors; Ashtabula County Animal Protective League; The Black Dog Food Pantry; Dogs Unlimited; Fairfield County CARES (Citizens for Animal Rights and Ethical Standards); Falcon Animal Rescue; Family Puppy Boycott-Puppy Mill Awareness of NW Ohio; Harrison County Dog Pound Volunteers; Hartman’s Hounds; Friends of Fido MCDP; Heaven Can Wait; Humane Society of Richland County; Joseph’s Legacy; Justice for Herbie; Kecia Mathys; Max’s Animal Mission; National Animal Shelter Volunteers; Never Muzzled; Nitro’s Ohio Army; North Coast Boxer Rescue; Ohio American Eskimo Rescue; Ohio Coalition of Dog Advocates; One of a Kind Pet Rescue; Our Mission Dog Rescue; Paws and the Law; Pawz 2 Adopt, Austintown; Peppermint Pig Animal Rescue; A Perfect Match; Pinealope Animal Rescue; Rescue Village; Rose’s Rescue; Ross County Humane Society; Safe Harbor Animal Rescue, Vermillion; Sanctuary for Senior Dogs; Save Ohio Strays; Soul Connections of Central Ohio; Summit County Shelter; TNR of Warren, Inc.; Tuscarawas County Humane Society; Underdog Society of Knox County; Vote 4 Animals Help Chained Dogs, Dayton; West Side Cats, and 911 Dog Rescue Inc. / Amy’s Adoptables, who enthusiastically support the passage of HB 433, “Veterinarians Continuing Ed for Neutering Services”.

This testimony addresses an important question: why issue continuing education credits for spay-neuter surgeries when veterinarians already know how to perform these medical procedures.

First, there are at least **14 Ohio, distinguished, licensing boards** that currently allow continuing education units for pro bono work of their licensees:

- The Supreme Court of Ohio that licenses attorneys
- The State Medical Board of Ohio
- The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
- The Ohio State Dental Board
- The Ohio Board of Nursing
- The Ohio Vision Professionals Board
- The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
- The Ohio Board of Psychology
- The Ohio State Chiropractic Board
- The Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board
- The Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board
- The Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board
- Ohio Emergency Medical Services
- The Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

So, HB 433 is not proposing a pioneering effort to allow continuing ed credit for veterinarians. Awarding CEU's to licensed professionals for recognized pro bono work is already a well established norm by notable, Ohio, licensing boards.

Second, the veterinarian undertaking pro bono work, indeed engages in additional, beneficial learning. He leaves his office and enters his neighborhood, establishing himself as a community leader, collaborating with and building bridges among the various animal groups there. He discovers, first hand, the assets and deficits of his animal welfare community, as well as the many ethnic, indigent, and underserved populations that he might not normally encounter in his work-a-day world.

Third, the veterinarian, a small business owner, likely will not perform free spay-neuter surgeries for families that can comfortably pay. His pro bono work may be at the local, county shelter; with outside, community cats; or with low-income families that simply cannot afford to have their animals fixed.

Thus, his surgeries, done for the public good, will not divert finances from his or his colleagues' veterinary practices.

HB 433 is a win for Ohio! It's bill that doesn't cost anything. It doesn't force compliance. It has no burdensome regulations.

Yet, it is a life saver and a money saver.

Healthy, treatable dogs and cats are routinely killed, simply for space, in shelters. Each animal that is spayed or neutered means brighter, financial days ahead for county and shelter coffers.

With the passage of HB 433, we recognize the compassionate, altruistic work of our veterinarians; we hasten fiscal efficiency of our county governments; we attain a higher standard of humanity for ourselves.

I appreciate the openness of the leadership and members of the House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee to learn more about this significant bill. I am pleased to answer your questions.