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Senate Bill 232  
Senate Agriculture Committee  
Corey Roscoe, Humane Society of the US  
April 16, 2018

Chairman Hackett and distinguished members of the committee:

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest and most effective animal protection organization, and our Ohio members and supporters, thank you for the opportunity to provide Proponent testimony on SB 232 - to allow a licensed veterinarian to receive continuing education credits every two years for performing free spay and neuter services in accordance with the bill.

Ohio is fortunate to have such a wealth of veterinary professionals. Many honored veterinarians have excellent relationships with animal rescues and shelters and provide in-kind veterinary services and discounts. These relationships are vital to numerous shelters and rescues that have a limited capacity and budget. Allowing licensed veterinarians to receive CEU's for services they may already be providing offers an extra benefit to their good deeds by recognizing their significant contributions towards animal care and encourages continued involvement in this important field.

Before joining the HSUS I worked in several animal shelters. I understand the challenges of providing daily care and vital veterinary services to shelter pets. And I've seen and felt firsthand the negative effects of pet overpopulation. It's estimated that about 2.4 million healthy, adoptable cats and dogs—about one every 13 seconds—are put down in U.S. shelters each year. Spay/neuter is a proven way to reduce pet overpopulation, ensuring that every pet has a family to love them.

Pro bono veterinary participation is an obvious benefit for animals and the entire community by helping to reduce pet overpopulation and building community relationships with animal welfare organizations and government operated animal care and control agencies.

We are grateful for the veterinary community and all the good work they are doing for our animal friends. Thank you for your consideration of this meaningful issue.

Best,  
Corey Roscoe  
Ohio, state director