



**Written Testimony on House Bill 552**  
**Senate Agriculture Committee**

Colleen Evans, Executive Director, Ohio Animal Welfare Federation  
December 3, 2018

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Hoagland, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 552, legislation to establish requirements governing the chemical capture of animals, prohibit the use of gas chambers when euthanizing an animal, and updating and improving the laws regulating euthanasia-by-injection when performed by certified euthanasia technicians under the limited shelter pharmacy license at animal shelters.

I am the Executive Director of Ohio Federated Humane Societies, now d.b.a. the Ohio Animal Welfare Federation. We are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the promotion of humane principles through knowledge. Our purpose is to prevent cruelty to animals by coordinating and enlarging the activities of private, nonprofit, 501(c)3 animal welfare organizations incorporated in Ohio and county, municipal, and local animal agencies; to share information with the administrative and legislative branches of the state, county, and local governments about the humane treatment of animals and their value to humans; to provide effective means for the propagation and dissemination of training, resources and information on humane principles that will enhance the welfare of animals in the State of Ohio; and to encourage cooperative, supportive, and collaborative relationships among humane societies, animal control facilities, and other animal welfare organizations.

The Board of Directors of the Ohio Animal Welfare Federation applauds Representative LaTourette's dedication to ending the antiquated practice of euthanasia by gas chamber, which is thankfully rarely practiced today by Ohio's shelters. Passage of this bill will demonstrate Ohio's support for the humane treatment of animals at all stages of their lives by officially banning the use of any remaining gas chambers now.

Ohio's shelters have made great strides in reducing euthanasia rates in our state. The goal is to eliminate the need to euthanize healthy, friendly, humanely treatable animals for time limits or to make space. However, there are times when euthanasia of animals is absolutely necessary to end their suffering or to protect public safety. Under current law, shelters that do not have a veterinarian on staff only have very limited access to euthanasia drugs. The drugs currently available for these shelters are not considered best practice and Ohio's animals are suffering as a result. Additionally, shelters without veterinarians on staff lack the ability to obtain and use drugs necessary to sedate animals prior to euthanasia. This limitation, especially when handling dangerous animals, causes unnecessary stress for the animals and often extreme risk for the people. Passage of House Bill 552 would ensure that all shelters have access to appropriate

sedation drugs. For the welfare of the animals involved and also for the safety of euthanasia technicians, this access to sedation drugs is absolutely critical.

Finally, we believe it is time to amend the law regulating the limited shelter pharmacy license so that the Ohio Pharmacy Board and Ohio Veterinary Licensing Board can stay up to date with best practices and permit animal shelters to use the proper tools for performing humane and safe euthanasia when euthanasia becomes necessary.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Animal Welfare Federation, we appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this important issue and ask for swift passage.

Approved by the Ohio Animal Welfare Federation Board of Directors:

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