



Clermont Animal CARE
HUMANE SOCIETY

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Written testimony on House Bill 552
Senate Agriculture Committee
Carolyn Evans, Executive Director
Clermont Animal CARE Humane Society
November 30, 2018

Chairman Hackett and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Proponent Testimony on House Bill 552 to establish requirements governing the chemical capture of animals and to prohibit the use of gas chambers when euthanizing a companion animal in a shelter.

I am the Executive Director of Clermont Animal CARE Humane Society which is the humane society for Clermont County located in Batavia, Ohio. We are a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3). Clermont Animal CARE Humane Society is contracted by Clermont County to provide animal control services, respond to incidents in which animals are involved, and enforce state animal laws according to the Ohio Revised Code regulating the ownership of companion animals. Additionally, we provide for the housing, feeding, caring for, adoption of, destroying and disposing of unlicensed and stray dogs with Clermont county pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 955.15.

We are entrusted to protect the animals in our community and provide those in our facility with the best care possible. Members of our Board of Directors and Advisors include multiple entrepreneurs and Clermont County business owners committed to the highest standards of animal sheltering in our field. We strive to be a source of pride and a tremendous asset for Clermont County with the belief that when you improve the welfare of animals in a community, you improve the welfare of a community.

We applaud Rep. LaTourette's leadership on trying to end the unnecessary and outdated practice of euthanizing shelter pets by gas chamber in Ohio. At times, animal shelters must make a decision to end a companion animal's life to ease their pain and suffering or when public safety is at risk. Best practice during these difficult times is to use euthanasia animals by injection – a painless method used by the vast majority of shelters in our state and around the country.

A merciful and humane death is just as important as providing a humane life for a shelter dog or cat. Allowing gas chamber euthanasia of shelter pets in Ohio is a stain on our great state and sets us all back especially when we've worked so hard to elevate animal shelters and engage the community in our work.

We respectfully ask you to put an end this unnecessary practice through the passage of House Bill 552.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Evans
Executive Director