

**Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 182**  
**Julie G. Keys**  
**Land-Grant Brewing Company**

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about Senate Bill 182. And thank you, Senator Coley for your sponsorship of this bill. My name is Julie Keys and I work for Land-Grant Brewing Company, a production craft brewery in Franklinton, Ohio. As animal owners, lovers, and activists, and as proponents of autonomy for small-businesses, Land-Grant is in favor of passing this important legislation.

At Land-Grant, it is our mission to grow our community, foster creativity, and above all, to produce the highest quality beer, customer service and taproom experience. When Land-Grant opened its doors back in 2014, we sought to provide a space for our growing community—a space to gather neighbors, family, and friends. Over the past three years, we have hosted weddings, happy hours, birthday parties, baby showers, football tailgates, and lazy Sundays. And, until the Health Department said otherwise, dogs were always invited to participate in those celebrations on our patio... because they, too, are valued members of our community.

In addition to providing a community atmosphere, we also offer a unique platform for fundraising. As animal activists, we have used our space to raise awareness for various causes. Specifically, back in April of this year, we hosted Pups and Pints in our outdoor space. This was a unique event in that we were able to invite the community and their four-legged friends to come to the brewery not only to fundraise for the Capital Area Humane Society, but also to meet and interact with adoptable animals, including dogs, cats, and rabbits.

On that Wednesday in April, we raised over \$3,500 for the CAHS. In the past, we have also fundraised for organizations like Canine Companions, Greyhound Rescue, and Rescued Ohio. After the success of Pups and Pints, we were hoping to repeat the popular event on a regular basis—a plan that came to a screeching halt when the Health Department usurped our decision-making authority.

Land-Grant is owned and operated by three very competent people: Adam Benner, Walt Keys, and Quintin Jessee. Each bring dynamic experience to the table in terms of business experience. In fact, Adam Benner was recently awarded the Medical Mutual Community Pillar Award, the Smart Business Smart 50 Award, and Business First's 40 Under 40. The 40 Under 40 program specifically "highlights the best and brightest among those who are leading the way in business and community involvement." Needless to say, our leadership here at Land-Grant can be trusted to (1) make the decision about allowing dogs on our patio, and (2) implement and enforce necessary policies to ensure certain standards.

As evidenced in my testimony today, passing Senate Bill 182 is in the best interest of Ohio communities and business-owners alike. Not only are dogs valued members of our community, but we are also missing out on prosperous fundraising opportunities. But, perhaps most importantly, when legislators regulate business decisions down to the dogs, they stifle creativity, community, leadership, and trust.

When the ban on dogs began to be enforced, Land-Grant was required to usher in a policy that was in line with the law. However, we have always told our customers that we will support any and all legislation that seeks to do away with what we view as an unnecessary and unfair restriction. So, thank you again for giving Land-Grant the opportunity to participate in today's hearing.