



**Written Proponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 33  
Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee**

Sharon Harvey, President & CEO, Cleveland Animal Protective League  
September 1, 2020

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Substitute House Bill 33, legislation to strengthen Ohio's animal, child, and elder abuse reporting laws.

I am the President & CEO of the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL), which is the humane society for Cuyahoga County and one of the largest animal shelters in Ohio. We are a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization organized under Ohio Revised Code 1717, and as such, are also authorized to appoint humane agents who enforce Ohio's animal protection laws.

During sponsor testimony, Representatives Lanese and Carruthers properly identified the link that exists between animal abuse and violence against humans. The sponsors' focus on increasing reporting for these offenses is extremely important and the Cleveland APL supports this goal.

Humane agents employed by county humane societies are mandated reporters for child abuse under O.R.C. 2151.421. Humane societies have long advocated for reciprocal animal abuse reporting by social service professionals given their interaction inside the homes of the families they serve. The inclusion of this provision is a great step forward for providing protection for children and animals in our state.

I believe this bill takes a very positive step forward in recognizing the need for additional attention to Ohio's abuse reporting requirements, and ask that you favorably report this legislation. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of this legislation.