

December 30, 2020

Del. J. Sandy Bartlett
District 32, Anne Arundel County
Lowe Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Rm163
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB992/20-JUD
"Buddy's Bill"

Good afternoon,

My name is Laurence Sanders and Buddy was our family member. Buddy was a fun loving, caring pet. He used to sleep in bed with me and he always slept upside down. I mention this because when they sleep like this it means they feel safe and content in their environment. On the evening of June 20, 2018 this peace was destroyed by the neighbor next door who shot Buddy with a pump BB rifle. Buddy later had an operation to remove the Copper BB that went through his spine and his intestines. The cost for Buddy's medical care exceeded \$15,000. Buddy died on June 30th from sepsis and the wounds he suffered from being shot.

Currently the maximum penalty in civil court is \$10,000 and as you can see that it would not even come close to what we spent trying to save our Buddy. This bill came up in the 2020 General Assembly and many people on the committee thought that \$25,000 was still too little. After looking into things more, this amount is entirely too low. Pets that provide service, protection and even police K-9's would cost many times over this amount. Buddy's bill was not able to be voted on since the session was cut short due to COVID-19. In addition to the Cap placed on Property, this law would make it so Law Enforcement could actually do their job. The detective was not able to interrogate the people we knew that shot Buddy as they really did not even have to answer the door, go to the station for questioning or anything else for that matter. By removing Pets from the Property Category this would give the police and the detectives more power.

As a result, we have had to take this matter to Civil Court here in Anne Arundel County. Our date has been changed many times because of COVID and is now scheduled to take place in August of 2021. I would like to ask that this law when enacted be signed into law no later than June 1, 2021. I applaud your efforts and concern for our pets as they are simply more than that. They are Family. I promised Buddy while he was on my lap and dying that I would get Justice for him even if it was the last thing I would do. The loss of Buddy has left permanent damage to our family.

Thank you and we look for a favorable response from this committee.

Sincerely,



Laurence Sanders
"Buddy's Dad"
8107 Ventnor Road
Pasadena, Maryland 21122
Anne Arundel County