

**HB 445- Animal Welfare- Declawing Cats- Prohibited Acts
SUPPORT TESTIMONY**

February 12, 2020

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Please adopt HB 445 so we don't have to see cats suffer any more.

As a volunteer at Montgomery County's Gaithersburg cat shelter, I know first-hand how declawing cats leads to other problems. Here's Mia's story:

The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County had a cat named Mia who was declawed. This adorable little 6-year-old calico would not use her litter pan because her paws were so sensitive to the touch of litter. She was surrendered by her owner because of she wouldn't use her litter pan.

We tried many different types of litter at the shelter and finally found that she would only use soft paper puppy pads (rectangular layers of absorbent material). She stayed at the shelter for many months because no one wanted to have to deal with her unique litter habits. She was even adopted once and returned. After a long wait, she finally found a kind soul to take her home where she is now.

This is just one example of how declawed cats react to this inhumane and unnecessary operation. There are many alternatives to declawing, including nail trimming, scratching post training, etc.

Thank you for considering this testimony and I hope you will adopt HB 445 immediately. I see no reason not to.

Sincerely,

Susan Buckley
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