



## MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411  
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 27, 2020

To: Senate Finance Committee  
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.  
Re: Business Regulation - Retail Pet Stores – Internet Sales of Domestic Animals (No More Puppy- and Kitten - Mills Act of 2020) – SB 625 – SUPPORT

Chairman Kelley, Vice Chairman Feldman, members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. On behalf of our board of directors and our thousands of members across the State of Maryland, I urge you to support Business Regulation - Retail Pet Stores – Internet Sales of Domestic Animals (No More Puppy- and Kitten - Mills Act of 2020) – SB 625.

Maryland took a big step out of the puppy mills industry in 2018. My thanks to those of you who were on this committee and helped pass that humane legislation. Unfortunately, the puppy mills pipeline is alive and well – and still operating in our State via the Internet. It is time to cut off the flow of these puppies and kittens from out-of-state puppy mills and ensure that Marylanders are not supporting a cruel industry that treats puppies and kittens like inventory ----- and not our best friends.

Maryland breeders would not be affected, and in fact may be helped, by keeping all sales of cats and dogs in our State. Marylanders who want a Labradoodle from a Maryland breeder would still be able to get that Labradoodle. The difference is that they would be able to meet that breeder and see for themselves that the cat or dog that they are bringing home to their family is living in healthy and humane conditions. The goal of this legislation is to close a loophole in the 2018 law.

Allowing Marylanders to purchase puppies and kittens via the Internet is a step backwards.

**Let's continue make Maryland a state with NO profit from Puppy Mills!**

I would like to thank Senator Kramer for his sponsorship of SB 625 and urge a favorable report.

*Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane*

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