

TESTIMONY OF DR. JOHN J GOLDBERG  
PRINCIPAL AT SCIENCE BASED STRATEGIES, LLC  
CHAIRMAN PUPPYSPOT EXTERNAL AND INDEPENDENT SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD  
HEARING REGARDING SB 103 BEFORE THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES;  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS

Chair Dereck E. Davis and members of the Economic Matters Committee,

My name is Dr. John Goldberg. I am a resident of Davidsonville, Maryland and work as a food, agricultural, and environmental policy consultant in Washington, DC. Before entering the consulting business, I served for nearly 23 years as the Chief Scientist of the United States House of Representatives, Committee on Agriculture where I was responsible for a policy portfolio that included animal health and animal welfare. In that position, I was responsible for oversight and legislation related to the Federal Animal Welfare Act, and the Federal Animal Health Protection Act.

Upon retiring from public service, I was retained by PuppySpot to conduct an independent, science-based assessment of the standards the company has set for canine breeder performance. My analysis included a comprehensive review of federal, state, and industry standards for animal health and welfare as they pertain to puppies bred as companion animals.

PuppySpot's charge to me was to develop a comprehensive set of standards that "meets or exceeds" any other applicable standards. My proposed standards were then subject to an additional external peer-review by experts in veterinary medicine, animal behavior, animal ethics, and canine inspection programs. The final result was a set of guidelines that we believe are the gold standard for Breeder Selection and Performance.

Following development and implementation of these standards, PuppySpot rightly accepted the recommendation of this external review board that these standards must be a living document, and as such must be regularly reviewed and amended as our knowledge and experience dictates. As a result, PuppySpot chose to establish an external and independent Science Advisory Board and invited me to serve as its chairman. This board meets regularly to review PuppySpot's standards and practices and make recommendations on revisions to their breeder standards to continually improve animal health and welfare.

I am pleased to say that PuppySpot has accepted and implemented --- without change --- each and every recommendation made by this advisory board.

The members of this advisory board are committed to the highest standards for animal health and welfare. We take our role very seriously and would quit this board without hesitation if we thought the company was any less committed to animal welfare than ourselves.

The bill before you fails to respect the role science has to play in animal welfare programs and ignores the progress leaders in the industry, including PuppySpot, have made to enhance performance of small,

medium, and large scale dog breeders throughout the United States. For these reasons, this bill should be rejected.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony. I look forward to answering any questions committee members may have.