



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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March 23, 2021

To: House Economic Matters Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Business Regulation - Retail Pet Stores – Modifications (No More Puppy- and Kitten - Mills Act of 2021) – SB 103 – SUPPORT

Chairman Davis, Vice Chairman Dumais, members of the House Economic Matters 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 – Modifications (No More Puppy- and Kitten - Mills Act of 2021) – SB 103.

Maryland passed historic legislation in 2018 becoming the second state to ban the sale of puppies and kittens in pet stores, with the intention of closing the door to the puppy mills industry. Many thanks to those of you who were on this committee and helped pass that humane legislation. Unfortunately, the puppy mills pipeline is still operating in our state due to a few pet stores taking advantage of loopholes in the 2018 law.

There are still puppies being sold under questionable circumstances in Maryland. I have personally visited the parking lot of Just Puppies in Towson near my district and seen the windows and doors covered in paper to obscure public view. There is a sense when you drive up that something is not normal about this operation. Moreover, there are signs on the door that say “By Appointment Only” and “Please call in Advance.” No one answers if you knock. Clearly, they know that they are not operating in full compliance with the intent of the law. SB 103 closes loopholes in the 2018 law to stop the flow of puppies and kittens from out-of-state puppy mills. We want to ensure that Marylanders are not supporting a cruel industry that treats puppies and kittens like inventory - and not our best friends.

Let's continue make Maryland a state that says to NO profit from puppy mills!

I would like to thank Senator Kramer for his sponsorship of SB 103 and urge a favorable report.

Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane

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