

January 27th, 2021

Jennifer Adkins
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Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Adkins, and I am a National Embed Program Specialist for Best Friends Animal Society, a national animal welfare organization based in Kanab, UT. I am writing today in strong support of the Bill HB0146 to extend the Spay/Neuter Fund.

My career in animal welfare spans almost a decade and I have had the opportunity in my current position to travel to different communities all over the country to support communities in their lifesaving efforts for dogs and cats in their shelters. I have seen firsthand throughout these years of experience the importance of spaying and neutering pets, and the beneficial impact these practices have not only on individual pets and pet owners, but on the health and welfare of the entire community.

One of the most impactful benefits spay and neuter has in the community is the direct impact it has on overpopulation of cats and dogs in our animal shelters. By reducing the number of unintended litters of dogs and cats in our communities, our animal shelters see a decrease in the intake of homeless animals into the shelter. This allows the shelter's time and resources to be focused on animals who truly need their rescue and adoption services. When shelters have more bandwidth to provide positive outcomes for the animals in their care, we see a decrease in the number of pets who are needlessly losing their lives in the shelters.

Spay and neuter practices also have a benefit on the health of pets and their families in the community. Most often, sterilizing pets decreases nuisance or problematic behaviors often seen in mating animals, including yowling/howling, destruction of property (most often through territorial urination), fighting for a mate, and roaming, as well as unintended litters. Being able to provide these services to families in your community also strengthens and respects the human-animal bond, and creates a sense of trust from constituents for their government agencies who help provide or support these services.

Extending the Spay/Neuter Fund will allow these opportunities to further flourish and will help provide sterilization services for pets in your community, which is beneficial not only for those individuals, but for your animal shelters and your entire community. I respectfully urge the members of this committee to support this very important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Adkins

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