



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



**January 25, 2022
Judiciary Committee**

HB 209

Criminal Law - Unnatural or Perverted Sexual Practice – Repeal

LETTER OF INFORMATION

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and Maryland Votes for Animals, we wanted to provide the committee with brief informational testimony on HB 209, *Criminal Law - Unnatural or Perverted Sexual Practice – Repeal*. We do not take a position on HB 209 because we consider the passage of comprehensive animal sexual abuse prohibitions in the felony animal cruelty statute in 2019 to make the component of the perverted practice prohibition related to sexually abusing animals redundant.

We thank this committee again for your leadership in the passage of that important 2019 legislation to define animal sexual abuse and prohibit it in all its forms.

We hope this information is helpful as you consider HB 209.

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