

To The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Maryland State House
Chair, Judiciary Committee

March 1, 2022

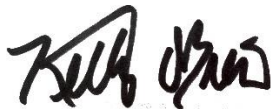
On behalf of Mars Veterinary Health and its almost 1,000 veterinary professionals working in 45 veterinary hospitals in the state of Maryland, I am writing today to express our strong opposition to HB1375. This bill would create an avenue for pet owners to recover emotional distress (non-economic) damages for civil actions for the wrongful injury or death of a companion animal.

While we treasure the human-animal bond and understand the emotional impact that the injury or loss of a pet can have, opening a path for emotion-based damages will ultimately harm pets by driving up the cost of veterinary care. Additionally, changes like this will undoubtedly cause veterinarians to leave or not enter the field out of concern of increased liability risk – exacerbating an already critical shortage of veterinary professionals in the United States. While this bill seems to be pro-animal, the legislation will harm pet health in the long run.

That is why Mars Veterinary Health is joining other veterinary organizations in the state to oppose this bill. We are dedicated to our collective purpose – creating a better world for pets – and oppose any law that would decrease the ability of pet owners to access veterinary care for their pets.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best,



Kelly O'Brien
Director of Public Affairs