



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**April 6, 2022
Judiciary Committee**

**SB38
Public Safety - Fire and Rescue - Veterinary Care of Retired Fire and Rescue K-9s
FAVORABLE**

The Humane Society of the United States supports SB38, which expands the Compassion Care Fund established last year to include fire and rescue agencies.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our fire and rescue working dogs, who provide services that cannot be replicated by people or machines. These dogs deserve the ability to retire into loving homes once their working years are done. However, veterinary care can be a barrier for some families that would love to adopt these dogs, including their professional handlers, who often wish to adopt the dog they have worked with for so many years. And it is worth noting that, due to the work requirements these dogs face, they are more likely to require veterinary care in retirement.

We thank this committee for passing SB156 last year, creating the Compassion Care Fund. This bill is a technical fix to ensure all working dogs – not just law enforcement but also fire and rescue dogs – can be taken care of from this important fund. This legislation would ensure that retired fire and rescue dogs do not fail to receive veterinary care because of financial barriers faced by their owners.

Our fire and rescue working dogs and their handlers deserve the support this bill would provide. We urge a favorable report on SB38.