



**HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.**

March 1, 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Blackwell, DVM, MPH
Knoxville, TN

Gary Block, DVM, MS, DACVIM
East Greenwich, RI

Barry Kellogg, VMD
North Port, FL

Barry Kipperman, DVM,
DACVIM, MSc
San Ramon, CA

Paula Kislak, DVM
Santa Barbara, CA

Nicole Paquette, JD
Washington, DC

Gwendy Reyes-Illg, DVM
Milwaukie, OR

Meredith Rives, DVM
Evanston, IL

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Holly Cheever, DVM
Voorheesville, NY

Nicholas Dodman, BVMS,
DACVB, DACVAA
Grafton, MA

Anne Fawcett, BVSc,
MVetStud GradCertEd,
MANZCVS, DipECAWBMB
NSW, Australia

Brenda Forsythe, MD, PhD,
DVM, CAAB
Guadalupe, CA

Zarah Hedge, DVM, MPH,
DACVPM, DABVP
San Diego, CA

Joann Lindenmayer, DVM, MPH
North Grafton, MA

Sheila (D'Arpino) Segurson,
DVM, DACVB
Pleasanton, CA

Erin Spencer, M.Ed.,
CVT, VTS (ECC)
Derry, NH

Maryland Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Veterinary Support for SB690

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the committee:

The undersigned veterinarians are writing to convey our strong support for SB690, legislation that would phase out the cruel cage-confinement of egg-laying hens.

It is commonsense that animals be allowed to engage in basic movements and postural adjustments. This intuitive perspective is validated by an abundance of scientific evidence demonstrating that intensive confinement systems (like the battery cages used in some egg facilities) are detrimental to the physical and psychological welfare of farm animals and that these systems create public health concerns.

To cite just one notable example, the prestigious Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production—a panel of experts including a former veterinary school dean and a Secretary of the USDA—concluded “...that the most intensive confinement systems, such as . . . battery cages for poultry...prevent the animal from a normal range of movement and constitute inhumane treatment.” The Commission recommended a phase-out of the most intensive and inhumane production practices, including battery cages for egg-laying hens.

Modern replacements for this extreme confinement method already exist, are in widespread commercial use, and are economically viable. Cage-free systems allow birds to move freely through their environment and to engage in natural behaviors—such as dust-bathing, nesting and perching—which are thwarted by cage confinement.

We respectfully encourage the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee to support SB690 to protect egg-laying hens by eliminating the use of inhumane cage confinement in the state and requiring that all eggs sold in



HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.

Maryland come from cage-free hens. SB690—a commonsense reform measure—will ensure a more humane, safer, and sustainable food system.

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carrie B. Waters'.

Carrie Waters, DVM, PhD, JD, DACVIM
HSVMA Maryland State Co-Representatives

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nikhil Joshi'.

Nikhil Joshi, VMD

And the following additional Maryland veterinarians:

- Robert Adelman, DVM, Bowie
- Martha Jane Badura, DVM, Baltimore
- Myron Bradley, DVM, Taneytown
- Jodi M. Edwards, DVM, Bowie
- Cinthia Fabretti-Apling, DVM, Germantown
- Erika Hoffeld, DVM, DACVP, Silver Spring
- Susan Jones, DVM, Silver Spring
- Nancy Kauder, VMD, Baltimore
- Faouzi Kechrid, DVM, Baltimore
- Felicia Langel, VMD, PhD, JD, Frederick
- Karlyn Shisler McPartland, DVM, Jessup
- Linda Reinhardt, DVM, West Friendship
- Brenda Stewart, VMD, Woodbine
- James Stewart, VMD, Woodbine
- Lindsay Vega, DVM, Smithsburg