



**Maryland's Association of Animal Care and Control
Agencies and Humane Societies**

**PO Box 1143
Easton, Maryland 21601**

**SB641 – Department of Agriculture Spay Neuter Fund
Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

February 15, 2024

Dear Honorable Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee:

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies unanimously supports and encourages a favorable and speedy report on SB641.

The MD Department of Agriculture's Spay Neuter Program is an innovative program now being replicated in states across the country. Since the program began 10 years ago the program has funded more than 107,000 surgeries. We have seen shelter intake reduced by 27%, shelter euthanasia reduced by 62%- in great part these numbers can be directly attributed to this program.

SB641 requests a modest fee increase to the pet food companies so that the program may continue to fund shelters and organizations providing these free services to the community. It is no secret that costs have increased in every area, veterinary services are not different. The clinics must keep up with the cost of supplies and staffing. Increasing the fee by a modest amount will allow for funding to go farther and serve more animals.

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland believes the passing of this bill is a valuable tool in serving the animals and people of Maryland.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, CAWA

Executive Director/Chief Animal Control Officer: Talbot Humane/ Talbot County Animal Control

President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland