

To whom it may concern,

I'm reaching out to share my heartfelt support for the proposed bill aimed at improving accessibility to low-cost spay/neuter services for fellow Maryland residents, particularly those living in counties without convenient access to such clinics. As both a Marylander and a devoted pet owner, this initiative resonates deeply with me, reflecting the shared values of compassion, responsibility, and community care.

Allow me to share a personal experience that underscores the urgent need for this bill. My beloved dog, Chipper, became an integral part of our family from the moment we welcomed him into our home. However, as Chipper grew, so did his boundless energy and exuberance, characteristic of many young pups. Our veterinarian recommended the spaying operation not only for population control but also to help calm Chipper down and improve his overall well-being. With his hyperactive nature, it was evident that this procedure would greatly benefit Chipper and contribute to his happiness and comfort.

Moreover, as responsible pet owners who frequent local dog parks, my family and I couldn't overlook the potential risks of Chipper impregnating another dog as he entered puberty. We understood the importance of preventing unplanned litters and the subsequent strain on already overwhelmed shelters. Despite our best efforts to find affordable options or state-sponsored programs, the financial burden of the procedure weighed heavily on our shoulders. Ultimately, we had to make the difficult decision to have Chipper neutered through our veterinarian, which took a toll on our finances as a young family.

This personal journey highlighted the stark reality faced by many pet owners in Maryland. The cost of spaying/neutering, while not medically necessary, often poses a significant barrier, leading some families to delay or forgo the procedure altogether. This, in turn, contributes to the state's ongoing animal overpopulation crisis and places additional strain on already stretched resources within our communities.

By supporting this bill and enhancing accessibility to low-cost spay/neuter services, particularly for young couples and low-income families, we have the opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of both pets and their owners. This initiative not only promotes responsible pet ownership but also fosters a more compassionate and sustainable environment for all members of our community, both human and animal alike.

I wholeheartedly urge you to champion this bill and its mission to provide essential support and resources to Maryland residents in need. Together, we can create a brighter future for our beloved pets and ensure a healthier, more vibrant community for generations to come.

Thank you for considering my personal testimony and for your commitment to making a positive impact in our state.

Warm regards,

Wesley Meadowcroft