

Hello:

Thank you Chair Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher for allowing me to testify on SB 896. My name is Katie Flory, and I am the director of community care and advocacy with the Maryland SPCA, as well as the treasurer for the professional animal workers society (PAWS).

Maryland is facing a housing crisis, especially when it involves pets. Shelters across the state receive calls frequently from people trying to find housing for themselves and their pets. We hear the fear and panic in their voices when they are faced with having no place to live with their pets. We have also seen an increase in large dogs coming into shelters because of housing issues.

SB 896 would provide a small step in making it easier for people to locate pet friendly housing. It would require landlords to list their pet policy on their website. We request a favorable report on SB 896.