

## House Bill 912

**TO:** Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

**DATE:** February 23, 2026

**FROM:** Caroline A. Griffin, Esquire *CAG*

**RE:** **HB 912 – Trap-Neuter-Return Policies for Community Cats – Requirements and Restrictions (Ash’s Law)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Korman and Vice-Chair Guyton, my name is Caroline A. Griffin; I am a lawyer and reside in Baltimore. I am the Chair of the **Maryland Spay Neuter Advisory Board**. I am the co-founder of the non-profit **Show Your Soft Side (SYSS)**, a national anti-cruelty campaign that works with professional athletes and celebrities nationwide to demonstrate that compassion to animals is a strength. SYSS supports HB 912, also known as Ash’s Law.

HB 912 is a life-saving measure that would reduce intake and euthanasia at Maryland animal shelters, ultimately reducing expenses on taxpayers. Baltimore has had regulations governing trap-neuter-return (TNR) since 2009, which provide that TNR is the preferred method of managing community cat populations. BARCS Animal Shelter, Maryland’s largest shelter, has a robust community cat program, which works with community cat caregivers to safely reduce the community cat population and protect public health through TNR. Since the inception of the program in 2014, feline euthanasia has decreased by 75% and cat intake has decreased by nearly 50%.

Despite these successes, much work remains to be done, as there are an estimated 85,000 free-roaming cats in Baltimore, according to BARCS. SYSS also hosts TNR clinics and has a Street Kitty Medical Fund (SKMF) program, which provides urgent medical care to Baltimore’s sick and injured community cats. Every unaltered cat treated through the SKMF program is also sterilized and returned to its colony. SYSS has seen an increase in friendly cats through this program, animals who were likely abandoned by their owners. SYSS works with rescue partners to rehome these socialized cats who are ill-suited to return to the colonies where they were found.

Collectively, these initiatives will reduce the number of free-roaming cats over time, prevent cats from entering shelters, prevent unnecessary euthanasia, protect cats from illness and disease, and support citizens who care for these animals.

I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline A. Griffin  
[cag@carolineagriffin.com](mailto:cag@carolineagriffin.com)