

March 22, 2026

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: HB 53 Criminal Law-Nondomesticated animal prohibitions – Alterations

Position: Opposed

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Mike Toney,

My wife Valerie and I have been raising Macropod's since 2008 for the purpose of enriching the lives of less fortunate people. We provide the most amazing opportunity. They are able hold a joey in their arms and learn just how amazing they are. We are blessed to watch the world of that individual change. Whatever difficulties they are dealing with, that life has handed them washes away. Some have critical medical issues, some have special needs and then there are the forgotten, our Veterans. You can see the awe in their eyes often filled with tears of pure Mother Nature, given joy.

In 2025 we were invited to join Beau Peberdy, a well-respected wildlife rescuer in Australia. We accompanied him for four weeks, traveling the country learning about Macropods from different Australian Wildlife Rehabbers, not only to learn but bridge the gap of Americans and Australians

The goal was to gain every possible bit of knowledge we could about responsible raising and the care giving of Macropods. Our journey included learning how to triage kangaroos hit and killed by vehicles, leaving behind a joey that would need to be cared for.

April 16, 2025 we arrived at The Baptist Cancer Center in Dyersburg Tennessee for a surprise visit to Dawn Chalk while she was receiving her last Chemo therapy. We brought along 2 joeys for the visit. Before leaving the facility we saw well over 100 people. One elderly lady was quoted as saying “This is the best day of my life” after holding a Joey for a few minutes. This was a life changing moment for her. The floor nurses said “this is the most Smiles they have ever seen during chemo treatments” The atmosphere was filled with hope and excitement.

December 18, 2025. Two kangaroo joeys, JennyRoux and Joy were invited and arrived at the OLOL Children’s hospital Baton Rouge LA to visit the patients during their hospital visit. We witnessed so many smiles from everyone including patients, doctors and nurses alike. One child refused to go to family therapy but after hearing that Joy and Jenny, the two kangaroo joeys, were planning a surprise visit she told her dad “Did you write that day and time down?”

February 6, 2026 .Joy and Jenny once again were invited to visit Louisiana Veterans Home in Jackson Louisiana...Countless veterans had the chance to hold and learn about Macropod husbandry while having their picture taken and each given a honorary coin THANKING them for their service. The smiles were enough appreciation from each Veteran without adding that their personal stories were amazing that we got to hear.

March 6, 2026 Joy and Pocahontas a new joey added to our mob (definition of a group of Macropods) went to visit Mrs Boudreaux's Special Needs class, West Feliciana Middle School, St Francisville LA. The teachers were so excited because one of the students interaction with the joey had never seen before. She came out of her comfort zone and was buzzing with excitement.

March 24, 2026 Joy Diamond and Pocahontas kangaroo joeys from our mob is going to the Woodleigh Rehabilitation Nursing Facility of Baton Rouge to bring Smiles, hope and a little bit of once in a life time encounter and education.

In closing my wife and I are affiliated with the Dream Day Foundation ...this is a non profit organization that supports St Jude patients and families and has been established now for 32 years and counting. We have seen first hand

what a kangaroo and wallaby joey including grown adults can do for the soul. Mainly, families come to visits our farm to interact with our kangaroos wallabies and whitetail deer. We also are very active with events hosted by the Dream Day Foundation providing kangaroo joeys ,older kangaroos and wallaby's for everyone to see, hold, touch and educate them with lots of true factual information, not hearsay or inadequate plain false accusations. One of my favorite sayings is "Social Media is our BIGGEST enemy! Please do your research, ask questions, go for yourself and see what a BEAUTIFUL animal all macropods truly are." The experience is unbelievable and most rewarding! And any owner or facility will gladly welcome you to see learn and APPRECIATE.

THIS is just a small sample of what would never happen without the private ownership of Macropods.

I appreciate your time and am available for any questions.

Sincerely Michael Toney
225-328-2058









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A little hop of joy made its way through **FMOL Health** | Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital 🐰

Thanks to Mike and Valerie Toney and the **Dream Day Foundation**, some of our patients and team members experienced a special visit that brought smiles, laughter and a moment of wonder to their day.



