



Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association

May 25, 2018

The Honorable Speaker Robert A. Deleo
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker Deleo:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association and our 1,163 members, I am writing to ask for your support of **S. 2347, An Act to Protect Animal Welfare and Safety in Cities and Towns (PAWS II)**. This bill is sponsored by Representative Louis Kafka and passed the Senate on March 15, 2018.

The MVMA was named in the original PAWS bill (that passed in 2014) to serve on the state's Animal Cruelty Task Force. Lauren Atkins, DVM, was our representative. Over the course of more than 20 meetings, the Task Force created recommendations for a myriad of ways to fill gaps in our animal protection laws and continue to be a leader in this area.

Other entities that were represented on the Task Force members included: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, animal control officers, the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the Office of the Attorney General and the Massachusetts State Police. The group also receive input from other stakeholders and the public.

Veterinarians play a key role in addressing animal abuse. The 2014 PAWS bill required veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse. Dr. Atkins, the MVMA, and other stakeholders have been key to making that happen and ensure that veterinarians understand what and how to report.

S. 2347 is an important vehicle to continue to address the problems Task Force members and others encounter with animal cruelty in the Commonwealth.

We urge you to advance this bill to the floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susan G. Curtis'.

Susan G. Curtis
Executive Director



Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association

May 25, 2018

Representative Jeffrey Sanchez
Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House
Boston, MA 02133

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