



34 Hamilton Avenue
Oyster Bay, New York 11771
www.theladewcatsanctuary.org
516-922-CATS
Fax: 516-922-5203

May 29, 2015

Re: In Opposition of HB3494-A - OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED -
Senate Committee on Human Services & Early Childhood
(Scheduled for June 2nd)

Dear Ms. Hernandez,

As Co-Director of the Paw Project-NY, a non-profit organization with Directors in Oregon, I am writing to you in opposition of HB 3494-A (unless amended) which I strongly disagree with as written. As long as declawing is allowed by law (even as a last resort), veterinarians will continue to perform amputations of cats and kittens, mostly to protect owner's furniture. There are safer and kinder alternatives to prevent any kind of scratching (if it even occurs).

The American Veterinary Medical Association states that it should only be performed as a last resort and this has done absolutely nothing to stop veterinarians from performing this on kittens. Obviously this procedure is not done as a last resort if kittens are being declawed. Many veterinary practices offer declaw with spays and neuters, some offer coupons.

Declawing cats is not a therapeutic surgery for the cat. It is 10 amputations and does not guarantee a cat a home. Many shelters have evidence of returned declawed cats showing signs of inappropriate urination and/or biting which resulted from painful paws and removing their primary defense. They not only lose their claws and their home, they sometimes lose their lives.

The CDC, NIH, the Infectious Disease Society of America and US Public Health Services have all published statements that declawing of cats "is not recommended" to prevent the transmission of disease from animals to the most immunocompromised of people, those infected with HIV. Recently, the Canadian Medical Association Journal also published an article, stating that declawing of cats should not be done to protect human health.

Please do not pass this bill allowing declawing as a “last resort.” It won’t be and cats will continue to be subjected to this serious and completely unnecessary mutilation.

Sincerely yours,

Susan V. Whittred, DVM
Veterinary Medical Director
Co-Director of Paw Project-NY



Chico (black and white) and Kimba

