

May 31, 2015

Committee Assistant, Maria Hernandez  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

**RE: HB 3494-A OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Hearing date: June 2, 2015

Chair Gelser and members of the committee:

I am writing to ask that you **OPPOSE HB 3494-A UNLESS AMENDED TO REMOVE ALL NON-THERAPEUTIC EXCEPTION.**

Although written with good intentions, HB-3494-A contains loopholes that will do absolutely nothing to protect dogs and cats. This bill would not only allow the cruel and medically unnecessary procedure of declawing and devocalizing to continue unchecked, but if used as model legislation, could invalidate the anti-declaw laws already in place.

I feel it's important to point out that, unfortunately, there are far too many veterinarians that do not recognize and/or validate the extreme pain that cats endure during a declaw procedure or the long-term negative effects that many, if not all, will be subject to in their lifetime.

Sadly, despite all of the data to date on how cruel and harmful declawing is, many veterinarians continue to perform the barbaric procedure of amputating every last knuckle of a cat's paw (cutting through bone, tendons, skin and nerves) for a variety of unwarranted reasons.

Please **OPPOSE HB 3494-A UNLESS AMENDED TO REMOVE ALL NON-THERAPEUTIC EXCEPTIONS.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Holly Mendenhall  
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