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Dedicated to making Michigan a no more homeless pets state.

September 7, 2016

House Local Government Committee
Anderson House Office Building
Post Office Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairman Chatfield and members of the House Local Government Committee:

As Chair of the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance, I am asking for your support of SB 239.

The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance is a statewide, non-profit organization that assists Michigan shelters in improving their operations to save more lives and to prevent the needless death of Michigan pets.

Senate Bill 239 will prohibit Michigan communities from taking away a Michigan citizen's right to choose where they live based upon an arbitrary determination of their pet dog's appearance or allow a community to separate a pet from their family based upon an arbitrary label.

As an organization we witness the number of dogs killed annually in our shelter system. We know firsthand that breed discrimination contribute greatly to the 27,250 pets that are killed annually. When a family is forced to give up their due to an ineffective and misguided law, many times that dog ends up in the shelter system, a system already overburdened and underfunded. Shelters, many of which are publicly funded, are forced to absorb additional costs to house, feed, exercise and adopt out, or kill and dispose of, additional dogs ... dogs that are not truly homeless but taking a shelter space from one that is, dogs that had loving families, but were simply living in an area with discriminatory laws.

These are dogs, often members of a family, have done nothing wrong. They are being judged solely on their appearance and not on their behavior.

Twenty states have passed state laws to prohibit breed discrimination legislation. Michigan will be the 21st. Please help us improve public safety, protect the welfare of our family dogs and assist in relieving the state's shelters by voting **YES on Senate Bill 239**.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Kay Schutt".

Deborah Kay Schutt
Board Chair