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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR S4234/A6298

Prohibits the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits by retail pet shops; authorizes space for adoption

This bill would ban the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in all pet stores across New York State while also encouraging pet stores to use space to show dogs, cats and rabbits from shelters and rescue groups. The federal government has failed to adequately regulate puppy mills, and commercial dog breeders have only one goal: breed the highest volume of puppies possible at the lowest cost for the retailer. In turn, pet stores do everything in their power to sell these dogs. Breeding facilities and pet stores have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick pets are sold to unaware consumers.

Pet stores annually import thousands of puppies, kittens, and rabbits into New York from out of state breeding facilities. Mothers are treated like breeding machines and when they wear out are often brought to shelters. Shutting down **the puppy mill pipeline** will stop commercial breeders from selling puppies in New York pet stores, making it harder for them to profit from cruelty.

A Washington Post article dated 2/19/20 stated: "The U.S. Agriculture Department restored to its website animal welfare inspection reports for dog breeding operations and other facilities on Tuesday, the deadline set by Congress for providing searchable access to documents the agency abruptly removed three years ago. Tuesday's move made available unredacted reports for nearly 10,000 zoos, circuses, breeders, research labs and Tennessee walking horse shows that were publicly available on Jan. 30, 2017 — days before they were purged — as well as those generated since, the department said. The reports, based on unannounced inspections, can be used by the agency to build cases against facilities that violate animal welfare regulations, and animal protection groups had long used them to call attention to operations they said treated animals inhumanely. The USDA said in 2017 that it removed the reports and other records over concerns about due process and privacy rights of animal business owners. It later reposted some, but in heavily redacted form. Others were available only through Freedom of Information Act requests, which could take months or years to be fulfilled. The agency's use of teachable moments has risen, and citations have dramatically declined, amid a Trump administration push to deregulate industry. Critics, including animal protection groups and former USDA animal

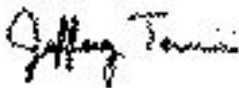
welfare inspectors, say the approach puts animals at risk. The agency says it allows inspectors to help animal owners fix problems more quickly."--

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2020/02/19/usda-reposts-animal-welfare-records-it-purged-its-website-2017/>

The state's animal shelters are ready to help bring adoption events to pet stores which would ease the burden on overcrowded shelters and rescue groups, and ultimately save taxpayer money.

THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS® OF NEW YORK STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS BILL.

Sincerely,



Jeffery Termini

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Cc: Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal, Sponsor

Assembly Member Donna Lupardo, Chair, Agriculture Committee

Senator Michael Gianaris, Sponsor

Senator Monica Martinez, Chair, Domestic Animal Welfare Committee

Speaker Carl E. Heastie

Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.

