

Committee Members,

My name is Ronald Isaacson, I am a doctor of veterinary medicine and have been the owner and practitioner of Madison Veterinary Hospital in Madison Heights Michigan for over four decades.

I am testifying in support of HB 5916 and HB 5917 today for several reasons:

- a) It is very important for individuals and families to have the most choice possible when choosing the right puppy for their family and their specific circumstances. Whereas local humane societies and animal shelters do a nice job doing what they are capable of doing, the selections offered are limited and frequently do not offer choices that fit a family's needs when placing a puppy in a home that is meant to be forever.
- b) Pet stores face much more rigorous standards in how they acquire the puppies they sell and provide a much greater variety of choices that local shelters simply cannot.
- c) I have been involved with John & Debbie Stottele of The Family Puppy for 29 years and can absolutely assure you that they care deeply for the welfare of the entire puppy industry. I have seen tremendous improvements in the quality, health, temperament and well being of the animals that have come through The Family Puppy during that time. I truly look forward to Wednesday afternoons when I go to the pet shop to give comprehensive exams to the new puppies, signing health certificates before they can be sold. It is a breath of fresh air to see bouncy, happy, healthy puppies. To give confirmation to this I have purchased my wife and my 2 dogs from The Family Puppy, as have my son, daughter and granddaughter. (If warranted-As have Rick Schulkey, my Hospital Manager and Deborah one of my staff members, here beside me along with Dr. Kate Levey and associate vet at the practice.) All of which have become solid family members. The new owners receive a courtesy exam at our hospital to give confirmation that the pup is healthy. The pet store also provides through my hospital any medical care their new companion may need for the first 30 days after they acquire the puppy at no cost. This added protection gives the new family confidence their new pup is assured proper health care.
- d) The owners and staff of The Family Puppy are men and women of integrity. This bill HB 5916-5917, will provide the consistency these small business owners need to run a business, at the same time raising the bar for all pet retailers across the state of Michigan.

As a veterinarian I am concerned with the well being of the animals I take care of and I fully support this legislation, the additional protections for consumers, their pets, as well as the consideration it gives Michigan's small business owners impacted by it.

I will look forward to answering any questions or hear your comments that you might have.

I thank you for this privilege to speak with you today.